

Old Gods 851

Chapter 851: Immortal Worship Hall

September 3rd, night.

Moonlight spilled over Heaven's Edge, illuminating many people.

The soldiers of the Ran Sect gathered here, all kneeling respectfully towards the edge of the cliff, save for the Ran Sect's Lady who stood with her arms folded.

Even Luo Ying, the Divine General who had ascended to the Heavenly Realm just a few days earlier, was no exception.

Despite her formidable strength, her demeanor was even more devout.

However, there was one special individual—Bai Rao.

At this moment, the beautiful snake was lazily reclining at the Ran Sect Lady's side, her enchanting eyes gazing at the young man sitting at the cliff's edge.

The mist on the island had long since dispersed.

Evidently, after nearly a month of cultivation, the Sect Master had successfully broken through and entered the Heavenly Realm!

Yet Lu Ran remained there, motionless.

"Hoo~"

The sea breeze blew, causing Jiang Ruyi's long skirt to flutter.

Her eyes appeared somewhat dazed, silently watching the young man clad in a wide white robe.

Clearly, he was just a few dozen meters away.

Yet she felt he was far, far away from her.

The suppression of hierarchy seemed like a towering mountain before her.

The two were not situated on opposite sides of a mountain.

Rather, one was at the foot, and the other at the peak.

Suddenly, Lu Ran moved.

That slowly drifting figure tugged at everyone's heartstrings.

Until he slowly turned around, revealing a pair of radiant eyes.

The stars and moon in the night sky,

dimmed in this moment.

The wide white robe dancing in the night wind did not make him appear particularly graceful; the remaining divinity was exceedingly solemn and dignified.

The so-called divinity was all the more terrifying.

It struck directly at everyone's soul, compelling all beings to bow their heads.

"So everyone's here?" The young man in white smiled as he spoke.

His tone was gentle, quite deliberately so.

His gaze swept over the crowd, brimming with a sense of accomplishment.

Heavenly Emperor, protectors, elders, Divine Generals, various Hall Masters...

"Congratulations to the Sect Master on ascending to the Heavenly Realm," Deng Yuxiang declared loudly.

"Congratulations to the Sect Master on ascending to the Heavenly Realm!"

"Congratulations to the Sect Master on ascending to the Heavenly Realm..." The people echoed in unison, following the lead of the Ran Sect's first protector, offering their congratulations.

"Thank you." Lu Ran gently flew over, lightly landing beside Jiang Ruyi, as if afraid that any force might shatter the ground.

Jiang Ruyi pressed her lips tightly together, timidly watching Lu Ran.

Rarely, the cool and elegant fairy revealed such an expression.

Lu Ran did not mind the many people present. He leaned forward and gently pressed a kiss on her cheek.

Jiang Ruyi's body stiffened.

A simple action, causing the towering mountain before her to collapse with a roar.

"Wait for me." Lu Ran spoke softly, casually ruffling Bai Rao's head before walking towards the crowd.

Jiang Ruyi finally regained her senses, her delicate face blushing involuntarily.

Bai Rao, however, felt both pleased and vexed.

Bold boy!

Having ascended to the Heavenly Realm has finally given him the confidence to dare to touch my head?

Hmm... don't just leave, keep doing it~

Bai Rao immediately crawled away from Jiang Ruyi's feet, pursuing Lu Ran.

"It seems you all have your fill," Lu Ran was quite satisfied, his gaze passing over He Qifeng and Qin Yanzhi, "We've gained two more Sea Realm Peaks."

Counting Wu Xiao and Xun Yifei, the Ran Sect now had four Sea Realm Peaks.

They were crowded with Fourth Rank individuals!

The future holds promise.

Lu Ran stopped, standing before the Wind Emperor, and softly said, "I'm waiting for you."

He Qifeng looked up at Lu Ran, his eyes firm, "Mm!"

Lu Ran smiled, continued walking, then stopped in front of Luo Ying: [In a few days, I'll bring you to merge with the Divine Sculpture.]

[Yes!] Luo Ying also replied telepathically.

Lu Ran shifted to normal speech, joking, "After returning, share more experiences with the Divine Seeking General, let him tell stories to the children."

Xun Yifei: "..."

"Pfft~" Luo Ying couldn't help but laugh lightly.

To casually laugh before the majestic Heavenly Realm, one had to be in the Heavenly Realm as well.

Lu Ran took a few more steps, helping Elder Lu Yuan up: "Master Lu, still unable to perform the Divine Technique?"

"The Sect Master need not worry about this old man, changing camps rashly might be unfavorable for the Ran Sect's development." Lu Yuan wasn't too disheartened, just looked at Lu Ran with a heartfelt sigh.

A young man from the past had now caught up, reaching the First Level of the Heavenly Realm.

Lu Yuan knew this day would come eventually.

It just came a bit too quickly.

"I understand, my Dust Shadow Divine Sculpture will always be reserved for Master Lu," Lu Ran nodded, "In this promotion, the Immortal Sheep asked me to focus on breaking through, we exchanged only a few words.

Once I have a proper discussion with the Immortal Sheep, I'll come find you again."

"Alright." Lu Yuan nodded gently.

"Divine General Qin, escort Elder Lu back for a rest."

"Yes."

Lu Ran watched as Qin Yanzhi summoned the Ancient Bronze Mirror, sending a message: [You are just one step away from the Heavenly Realm and will soon be able to travel freely across worlds; you mustn't be too reckless.]

Qin Yanzhi immediately responded: [Both the Lady and the Cong Long protector have reminded me, all of my actions need the Sect Master's approval.]

"Mm." Lu Ran smiled, saying nothing more.

Having two wise assistants...uh, a wisely governing assistant and a thorough strategist, really alleviates worries.

Things he hadn't yet considered, they had already completed.

Lu Ran approached the small group of the Bai Family.

Headed by Bai Yanhui, with his granddaughter Bai Manni and grandson-in-law Deng Yutang on either side.

"Elder Bai, you've waited long enough." Lu Ran helped Bai Yanhui up, igniting black flames in his hand as he looked at the deeply sunken eyes of the elder.

Heavenly Grade Evil Technique-Caged Fire (Bath)!

"Gulp." Deng Yutang swallowed, his body trembling slightly.

My own brothers are already frightening enough! At his feet was a beautiful snake, also in the majestic Heaven Realm!

Kneeling half on the ground, Deng Yutang happened to be facing Bai Rao directly.

His heart was truly pounding!

"Reached the peak, Deng Shao." Lu Ran said while transferring the Black Fire to Bai Yanhui.

"Ah!" Deng Yutang responded.

In the Human World, reaching the peak of the River Realm naturally makes one a great power venerated by many.

But on Holy Spirit Mountain...especially within the Ran Sect, the River Realm is somewhat lacking.

"Manni's reached the peak too, so fast." Lu Ran said with a smile.

"Yes, Sect Leader." Bai Manni replied softly, also deeply affected by Bai Rao, and she turned her face away.

This great power of the Heaven Realm, who shares the same surname as me, really has...um, peculiar tastes.

Has she truly cultivated into a snake?

Ah!

Bai Manni suddenly remembered something: as her strength and realm continue to rise, will she adopt the habits of the Ghost Moon Fox and become a mesmerizing White Fox?

Hmm, probably not.

I worship the Ran Shen, the stone sculptures in his Sculpture Garden, and won't suffer the bane of the stone sculptures.

"Grateful...thank you Sect Leader! Thank you Sect Leader..." An aged voice rang out, full of emotion.

The old man, whose eyes were sunken in the past, finally opened them.

By the starlight, Bai Yanhui finally saw the true form of Master Lu.

But soon, Bai Yanhui couldn't see clearly again because a mist of tears covered his eyes, making the heroic young figure in his sight become blurry.

Lu Ran slightly exerted his hands, stopping the old man from saluting again: "Sorry to keep you waiting, Elder Bai."

"Not long, not long..." Bai Yanhui trembled with his aged hands, constantly wiping his eyes.

Yet, the more he wiped, the more tears streamed down.

A man over seventy, having struggled on Holy Spirit Mountain, had been through so many ups and downs, and should have cultivated a calm heart.

Facing everything calmly.

The truth was indeed so; he was long used to and accepted the cruel reality of losing his eyes.

Yet, the Sect Leader brought him his granddaughter, grandson-in-law.

And a toddler great-granddaughter.

The old man who accepted everything calmly, was no longer at peace and felt a trace of longing.

Now, on this night of the third of September, after roaming the Mountain Realm for thirty years, Bai Yanhui could finally see his family with his own eyes.

"Deng Shao, Manni." Lu Ran's heart was full of mixed emotions, and he spoke softly, "Accompany Grandpa Bai back."

"Yes!"

"Yes." The young couple hurriedly got up to assist Bai Yanhui away.

Lu Ran clearly saw Bai Yanhui closing his eyes again.

Elder Bai finally got what he wished for, seeing family descendants, yet seemed to shrink back now?

Such a complex mentality.

Lu Ran watched them leave, and without the mood to encourage the others, he instructed, "Everyone return, practice diligently, don't slack."

"Yes!"

"Yes..." The people all retreated one after another.

At Heaven's Edge, only a few figures were left.

Lu Ran looked down at the woman in white and sighed, "Aunt Bai truly doesn't care about anything?"

As a dignified great power of the Heaven Realm, crawling on the ground in front of so many people?

What a sight!

"I naturally care about things." Bai Rao rubbed her cheek against Lu Ran's calf.

"It's late, Aunt Bai should go back."

"Where does little Lu want me to go?"

"Didn't they arrange a place for you?" Lu Ran slightly frowned.

"Hehe~" Bai Rao chuckled softly, slowly stood up, "Now that you are of the Heaven Realm, frowning is scary~"

Lu Ran: "..."

"Alright alright, won't disturb you young couples." Bai Rao turned to leave, a distant voice echoed, "Little Master Lu, watch your boundaries! The Heaven Realm physique is wild, be gentle with the lady."

Lu Ran immediately blushed deeply.

This demon...

Shouldn't have brought her to the ends of the earth, should have thrown her directly to the Glass Realm!

Lu Ran picked up the sword at his waist and called out, "Yan Chou."

"Young Master." A man in an Emperor Robe flew over swiftly.

"Take this and go into the cave below." Lu Ran indicated below with his foot.

"Yes." Yan Chou took the Cloud Sea Dust Clear Sword with both hands and immediately flew down the sea cliff.

Lu Ran then looked at Jiang Ruyi: [Let me take you somewhere?]

[Where...where to?] Jiang Ruyi saw Lu Ran holding an Ancient Bronze Mirror in his hand.

The anticipated Landing Mirror did not form instantly.

Yet Lu Ran's Divine Power surged, becoming increasingly fierce.

Jiang Ruyi immediately realized something!

Lu Ran's mastery of the Evil Mirror Magic-Mirror Flower Moon was already perfected, and for him to perform magic with such effort, there was only one possibility!

"Whoo!!"

The fierce fluctuation of Divine Power stirred up waves of wind, blowing Lu Ran's hair backwards, and his broad robes rustled noisily.

At the same time, in the Human World, the kingdom of Da Xia.

On Luoxian Mountain, within the Immortal Worship Hall.

An antique styled landing bronze mirror, faintly appeared, arduously piecing together.

It didn't seem to appear out of thin air, rather...

Tearing through time and space!

"Buzz!!"

The terrifying divine power fluctuation filled the Immortal Worship Hall.

"Clatter~"

"Clatter..." In the shrines on both side walls, thousands of small sculptures of Immortal Sheep kept trembling, skewing and toppling consecutively.

Finally, a landing mirror appeared in the center of the hall.

A young face exuding terrifying divinity peered out from the mirror.

Deep within the hall, an immortal sheep stone sculpture sat steadily.

The perpetually kind smiling sheep face seemed more sinister.

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Chapter 852: Farewell, Immortal Sheep

Within the Immortal Worship Hall, occasional faint sounds could be heard.

Standing in front of the two side walls, Jiang Ruyi and Yan Shuangzi carefully placed each small Immortal Sheep sculpture.

In the depths of the hall, in front of the large Immortal Sheep stone sculpture.

Lu Ran stood motionless, eyes closed and hands clasped in prayer.

[More than four years, from the Mist Realm to the Heavenly Realm, not bad.] A low and hoarse voice echoed in his mind.

Four years?

Lu Ran's expression was mildly stunned, then he lowered his head and smiled slightly.

Oh right, it was in the year eighteen when I succeeded in honoring the gods, and now it's twenty-two, just over four years.

But these so-called four years feel like forty.

The journey has been fraught with too many events, especially during the days at Holy Spirit Mountain, where one year felt like ten.

[Small Human Clan, indeed your talent is exceptional.]

Is this considered an official endorsement?

Lu Ran couldn't help but think of his mother and asked, "Immortal Sheep Lord, have you been communicating privately with my mother?"

[It seems you have gathered quite a bit of information at Holy Spirit Mountain.] The divine tone bore an uncharacteristic trace of teasing.

Is this considered an indirect response?

Lu Ran whispered, "An Executioner descended from the Heavenly Realm to Spirit Mountain to slay Da Xia's geniuses, among them my mother's former associates.

That person said my mother was immensely powerful, greatly feared by both god and demon, and was invited back to the Human World."

[Indeed, you were quite bold at Holy Spirit Mountain.]

Lu Ran opened his mouth, realizing that the Immortal Sheep Lord was unwilling to delve into other matters, the focus remained on him.

He pondered for a moment, expressing concern, [How is your situation? Surely both god and demon are aware that you are the god honored by Da Xia's first pride.]

[Heh.] The Immortal Sheep let out a cold laugh, [Just a pile of stones, what can they do to me.]

Lu Ran looked up, staring blankly at the Immortal Sheep stone sculpture.

Such audacity?

Is this security perhaps a bit too much?

Hmm... hopefully, you are not just putting on a brave face out of pride.

[Hmm?] A slightly nasal sound echoed in Lu Ran's mind.

Lu Ran was startled, quickly saying, [Disc... Disciple wasn't aware before, why did you choose me. Now it seems, it was because of my mother.]

[Then why didn't I choose your mother directly?]

"Uh." Lu Ran scratched his head.

It does seem right... No, wait!

You're saying it as if you could have taken her.

Isn't she a top disciple of Sword One, also being watched by him, so no chance for covert influence?

[If there's nothing else, you'd better go back early and focus on ascending to the Heavenly Realm.] The voice in his head turned cold, [The energy is richer there, aiding your faster growth.]

Lu Ran shivered.

Such a domineering sheep, so heartless!

After so long, just stayed a while, and now you're sending me away...

Lu Ran organized his thoughts and said, "Disciple will ascend to the Heavenly Realm as soon as possible, but there are some matters, please guide me, Immortal Sheep Lord."

Disciple has obtained some information, knowing that gods and demons share the same origin, two sides of the same coin?"

[Why ask when you already know, hasn't your subordinate already fused the Divine Sculpture and Evil Sculpture?]

"Ah? Immortal Sheep Lord sensed it?"

[Hmm.]

"So, the Evil Demon Camp was created by all gods?"

[Not created, but divided.]

Lu Ran furrowed his brows, "Why do that? Wouldn't dividing weaken the power?"

[This allows your Human Clan to undergo the fastest transformation, rebuilding a new order, making you more thoroughly governed.]

Lu Ran's expression darkened.

[You're smart, tell me, if this pile of stones descended directly to the Human World and recruited believers, what would be the outcome?]

Lu Ran pursed his lips.

Undeniably, the Human Clan would still accept the new, gradually changing perceptions, and enter an age of universal god-worship.

After all, the stone sculptures can grant believers miraculous powers! When everyone else can fly and escape, would you still willingly remain ordinary?

In essence, it's not a question of willingness.

Falling behind means getting beaten, you have no choice but to accept!

But the problem is, with tens of billions living on this world, how long would it take to involve the masses in this?

God and demon's choice is undoubtedly more efficient.

Evil Demon Camp takes the lead!

Using three months to wreak havoc in the Human World, creating widespread chaos.

To ensure you feel pain, make you fearful!

Through repeated human tragedies, with wave after wave of dead, making the survivors feel the deepest pain, the deepest despair.

At the brink of the race's existence, the hypocritical Divine Camp makes its grand entrance.

This group of saviors quells the chaos in the Human World, saving the collapsing world.

So, how long does it take to fully have tens of billions accept the new, adapt to the environment, and completely change mindsets?

God and demon have given an answer:

Three months.

No need for total victory, no need for the Evil Demon Camp to be thoroughly crushed, the moment the gods descend, the era of universal god-worship begins!

Gradual adaptation? Slow acceptance?

No!

Devotion is immediately maximized.

The Human Clan, deceived, kneel before the altars, never to rise again.

Even those who suspect or question must dutifully bow in the face of overwhelming forces.

[It seems, you have figured it out.]

"Thank you, Immortal Sheep Lord for your guidance," Lu Ran said softly.

In the Immortal Worship Hall, Jiang Ruyi and Yan Shuangzi's movements were somewhat stiff.

Interestingly, the high and mighty Divine-Immortal Goat Lord did not instill fear in the two women; instead, it was the young man from the Human Clan who made them feel a chill.

Lu Ran was silent for a moment, then added, "Disciple had that subordinate fuse both Mo Li and Dragon Li stone sculptures, is this growth direction correct?"

[In worldly matters, what is right or wrong?]

Lu Ran slightly raised an eyebrow.

[Merely choices one after another.]

"I understand now, Immortal Sheep Lord." Lu Ran respectfully bowed, "Disciple also has two subordinates, one from West Desolation and the other a Female Demon from Barbaric Wilderness.

If they fuse, what will happen?"

[The weak will become sustenance for the strong.]

Lu Ran's gaze hardened!

So the two Feng Yan generals cannot merge, and one of them would be devoured?

Unexpectedly, Immortal Sheep's tone shifted: [The premise of cooperation is equality in strength.]

"I see." Lu Ran seemed thoughtful, "If two from the Human Clan, both Evil Sculpture and Divine Sculpture, are at the First Level of the Heavenly Realm, would that count as evenly matched?"

Strictly speaking, is there truly a complete equivalence in strength in this world?

[It's enough for their Great Realm to be equivalent, the rest depends on the stronger side showing more mercy towards the weaker side.]

"I understand!" Lu Ran showed a grateful expression.

[Your vision should not be solely focused on the dual faces of gods and demons.]

Lu Ran was puzzled: "Please enlighten me, Immortal Sheep."

[Once your subordinates become Stone Sculptures, they can devour not just their opposing sides but other Stone Sculptures as well.]

"What?" Lu Ran was shocked.

[However, only dual-faced Stone Sculptures can acquire corresponding Divine Techniques or Evil Techniques, for instance, the Dragon Ink Carp. If you let the Dragon Ink Carp devour other Stone Sculptures, it will only absorb their Origin Power to strengthen itself.]

"I get it." Lu Ran nodded gently.

The Immortal Sheep Stone Sculpture seemed to be staring at Lu Ran, smiling: [Did you really understand?]

Lu Ran paused, then his mind raced.

The entire Sculpture Garden belonged to Lu Ran, sending Yu Changsheng to devour other Stone Sculptures to acquire their contained Holy Spirit Energy would be counterproductive.

No need to kill the chicken to get the egg.

So what Immortal Sheep meant by "Stone Sculpture" is...

True God in reality?!

If the Ran Sect soldiers unite to slay a god/demon, Yu Changsheng can directly seize their Origin Energy?

Or perhaps, when that day comes, all the Fake Gods of Ran Sect can rush in and feast.

Divide the gods and demons!

Hence, it's crucial for Ran Sect to decide whom to cultivate intensively and which god or demon to slay first.

[This is teachable.]

Lu Ran slowly raised his head, looking at the Immortal Sheep Stone Sculpture, always smiling.

Two more words imprinted in his mind, with a sinister tone:

[Great Supplement.]

"Gulp." Lu Ran's Adam's apple moved slightly.

[You've reached today's heights in just four short years. I believe that day isn't far away.]

"Absolutely!" Lu Ran composed himself and nodded vigorously.

[Alright, go back.]

"Don't go yet, Immortal Sheep! Let me ask two more questions, it's been so long, I miss you... uh."

[Speak!] Cold words abruptly cut off someone's expression of longing.

Truly the domineering Sheep Boss.

Cruel and unfeeling, right?

Lu Ran pursed his lips and asked, "Some Stone Sculptures aren't split into two, like Spiritual Fortune, Nv Ying... why do these Stone Sculptures remain solitary? Is there any price to pay?"

[Some answers, you can find yourself.] The cold words fell once more.

Lu Ran was unsure if it was because Immortal Sheep was among them, hence the response.

He dared not probe further, so he simply said: "When the Evil Sculpture rises to the River Realm, it can summon evil demon minions and create flesh bodies.

Although River Realm Divine Sculpture can also summon minions, these so-called minions are possessed by divine shadows..."

[Ha.] Immortal Sheep suddenly laughed coldly, seemingly with a hint of disdain.

Lu Ran's scalp tingled, cautiously calling: "Immortal Sheep?"

[If the Stone Sculpture isn't divided, why would its abilities be divided?]

"Ah!" Lu Ran appeared to realize.

Indeed!

That means, beings like Spiritual Fortune being 'complete' can indeed summon both flesh and shadow minions.

But in the human world, these divine beings cannot summon flesh minions and wreak havoc on the fifteenth night.

Because the image of the minion is the divine being's true self.

Wouldn't that totally give them away!

Divine beings personally leading and invading Human Clan cities... just thinking about it is thrilling!

[The last question.] The transmitted voice grew colder.

Lu Ran opened his mouth, hesitating a while before settling on a question: "My side has subdued several executioners descended from the Heavenly Realm, and also the previous Heavenly Realm Dust Shadow Believer who sent me back to the human world.

Surely, they're the ones heavily watched by gods and demons.

If I let them switch allegiance and join me...

[Gods and demons do have rules, mutual restrictions, forbidding each other from setting foot on Holy Spirit Mountain, so no matter how you stir waves, it's of no matter.] A hoarse voice paused, then continued, [But now, I'm afraid it's not yet time.]

Lu Ran keenly grasped a piece of information.

A rule among gods and demons?

Why is this?

[Wait until you enter the Heavenly Realm, witness broader worlds, then decide for yourself.]

"Understood!" Lu Ran nodded and promptly said, "The last question!"

Immortal Sheep Stone Sculpture: "..."

"Just one, Immortal Sheep! The last one, please?" Lu Ran, hands together like a puppy, bowed repeatedly, "I'll leave right after asking."

[Hmph.]

Lu Ran was inwardly pleased, Immortal Sheep really indulges me!

He dared not linger, hurriedly said: "My mother's former subordinates still carry the Divine Sword she cultivated back then. I didn't dare to bring the sword directly back."

Immortal Sheep, can I contact my mother?"

In Immortal Worship Hall, a silence fell.

A long silence.

Not answering was, in fact, an answer.

Lu Ran's expression gradually became dejected, suppressing deep longing inside: "Disciple... understands.

I'll now proceed with preparations for an early ascension to the Heavenly Realm."

His gaze grew melancholy, deeply bowing to the Stone Sculpture before turning to leave.

Suddenly, a sigh echoed in his mind.

Lu Ran's steps halted abruptly.

The transmitted voice was no longer icy, just quietly said: [Things are accomplished in secrecy.]

"I understand, disciple." Lu Ran turned and again bowed respectfully.

And at that moment, another transmission came down: [She seems like a tight-lipped person.]

Lu Ran looked shocked, gazing towards the god.

In his view, Immortal Sheep Stone Sculpture sat cross-legged.

That warm and kind sheep face was smiling delightfully at him.

Chapter 853: I Come from the Mountains

After more than a year, Lu Ran returned to Luoxian Residence.

This secluded courtyard, filled with many memories for him, remained as clean and tidy as ever. It seemed Senior Sister Cheng Rou frequently came to tidy it up.

Speaking of which, if Xun Luo and his wife needed it, they could entrust their children to Senior Sister Cheng Rou for care?

The ends of the earth are clearly unable to provide the children with a happy childhood.

The islands often have the soldiers of the Ran Sect advancing, summoning mists that envelop the islands for ten days or half a month.

To young children, such a life is quite harsh.

Lu Ran thought quietly to himself as he entered the bathroom.

Indeed, after people advance to the River Realm, they become frighteningly clean.

But Lu Ran still solemnly turned on the shower.

As the hot water poured over his face, he felt completely relaxed...

How wonderful is the human world!

Look at this bright light, look at that clear mirror!

And look at the heroic youth in the mirror!

Tsk tsk, how can one be so dignified... oh, it turns out it's me.

Then it's fine.

"I come from the mountains, bringing orchids~" Lu Ran hummed a little tune, enjoying his bath happily.

In the eastern bedroom, Yan Shuangzi, who was making the bed, paused.

She seemed to hear the tune of a sprinkler truck?

Memories from the depths of her heart, awakened, left Yan Shuangzi somewhat dazed.

The childhood song he hummed softly seemed to come from his past life...

"Sister Shuangzi, what's wrong?" Jiang Ruyi asked.

In private settings, she would change her mode of address for certain subordinates; both Deng Yuxiang and Yan Shuangzi were among the fortunate ones.

"He's singing." Yan Shuangzi snapped back to reality and continued to make the bed.

Jiang Ruyi couldn't help but smile.

Singing in the shower seems hard to associate with the majestic Heaven Realm or with Lu Ran's face, exuding terrifying divinity.

This indeed represented that he hadn't changed.

Jiang Ruyi asked herself, if she ascended to the Heavenly Realm, her state of existence would likely change greatly.

This so-called path to ascension is, in fact, a road that extinguishes humanity.

"It's quite good." Jiang Ruyi said softly, "With him holding things down, we can feel more human."

"Yes." Yan Shuangzi responded softly, suddenly twitching her ear.

Without needing Lady Ran Sect to ask, Yan Shuangzi immediately said, "My lady, someone is coming, from the south."

Jiang Ruyi looked out the window and happened to see an elderly man in a white Taoist robe arriving at the courtyard gate.

Cheng Li also saw the woman standing by the window, and couldn't help feeling a bit excited.

After a year,

Did the Mountain Master and Lady break free from the Divine Ruins again?

Did they complete the task entrusted by the Divine One?

A moment later, Jiang Ruyi came out and said softly, "Master."

"My lady." Cheng Li was full of emotion, through the fairy-like beauty of the woman, he saw an even more ethereal, beautiful long sword.

The ethereal style naturally inherited from Cheng Li, this swordsmanship master's lineage.

But this beauty...

Cheng Li slowly said, "It seems the lady has improved her swordsmanship after the Divine Ruins."

"I've been practicing sword dance with someone, absorbing some of their aura." Jiang Ruyi's eyes revealed rare apologies, "That Cheng Xin grandfather, we didn't find him."

In the mountains, there was no trace of Cheng Xin to be found.

Even Bai Rao and Yan Chou, who came from the sky, hadn't seen Cheng Xin.

"There's no need for my lady to feel this way, everyone has their own destiny." Cheng Li was mentally prepared.

The Mountain Master and Lady helping him search for his brother was already very satisfactory, he dared not ask for more.

In fact, not only was Cheng Xin missing, but also Hao Tian, the disciple of Dong Ting whom Wang Quan disciple Li Rouyin had asked Lu Ran to search for, was also not found.

One must know that Lu Ran had been fighting and wandering all around the Holy Spirit Mountain.

Yet he still hadn't seen Hao Tian.

Lu Ran could only comfort himself that the Holy Spirit Mountain was too vast; if Hao Tian was shrewd enough to see through the essence of Holy Spirit Mountain early on and hid purposefully, it would indeed be very hard to find him.

"My lady's progress is incredibly rapid, such strength and realm is beyond my own." Cheng Li sighed, feeling amazed.

"Master, do not underestimate yourself." Jiang Ruyi appraised the old man, now standing on equal footing, able to perceive Cheng Li's power clearly.

Sea Realm·Fourth Rank.

Indeed, he was the first-generation disciple!

Even remaining in the human world, such a "low martial world", he achieved such results.

Now that Lu Ran had ascended to the Heavenly Realm, gaining many stone sculpture activation slots, perhaps Cheng Yi and Cheng Li could inherit one or two of them?

The Cheng family's grandfather has given his all for the Human Clan, for the sect; his loyalty towards the Mountain Master indeed deserves another step forward.

Jiang Ruyi thought quietly, giving instructions softly, "Tomorrow morning, have Senior Sister Cheng Rou send some meals, picking what the Mountain Master enjoys."

Cheng Li naturally understood that the lady was sending a guest away, suppressing the thought of continuing to inquire, he bowed and said, "Yes, this old man takes his leave."

But just as he turned and walked two steps out, his whole body trembled!

Cheng Li's cloudy eyes widened, turning swiftly, his sword at the waist already half unsheathed.

The next moment, Cheng Li was stunned.

In his sight, a young man draped in a large white robe, stood at the entrance of Luoxian Residence, smiling and nodding in greeting.

"Mountain Master?" Cheng Li was shocked!

Lady Luo Xian was only in her early twenties, and with Sea Realm-Fourth Rank's strength and realm, was already enough to astonish him.

However, when the Luoxian Mountain Master appeared, Cheng Li truly realized what "one mountain is always higher than another" meant!

What, what, what?

What exactly is this... what kind of existence?

"Grandfather Cheng Li." Lu Ran stepped into the courtyard.

It was clear that he arrived in a hurry, still holding a white bath towel in his hand, rubbing his damp hair.

"Mountain Master." Cheng Li paused for quite a while before speaking again, "You really frightened this old man."

"Hehe~" Lu Ran chuckled, passing by Jiang Ruyi, and said, "I'm going out for a stroll."

"Come back soon." Jiang Ruyi casually took the large bath towel and watched the older and younger man leave the small courtyard.

Until the two disappeared into the forest path, she held the bath towel and gently sniffed.

A faint jasmine fragrance.

Sister Cheng Rou was indeed thoughtful, not only regularly coming to clean the room but also often replacing the bath supplies with new ones, and it's the same brand that Lady Luo Xian often used.

"Lady, the bedroom has been tidied up." A voice came from behind.

Jiang Ruyi instinctively put down the bath towel, her cheeks slightly flushed: "Oh, you... you rest as well."

The sky was full of twinkling stars.

A gentle breeze brushed through the mountains and forests, bringing along the rustling sound of shaking branches and leaves.

On the forest path, Cheng Li maintained a distance of several meters and followed Lu Ran forward.

"Lately, is everything well in the mountain?" Lu Ran suddenly spoke.

"Everything is peaceful."

"The Immortal Sheep has no abnormalities, does it?" Lu Ran halted briefly at the fork and walked towards the Luoxian Pavilion.

"Abnormalities?" Cheng Li was somewhat confused.

As a believer, there is an insurmountable gap between him and the divine, and he doesn't even have the privilege of communicating with it.

"If not, that's best." Lu Ran sighed softly and entered the Luoxian Pavilion.

The Immortal Sheep had repeatedly stated that Lu Ran could act recklessly within the Holy Spirit Mountain.

As Da Xia's genius, Lu Ran would naturally do what he must.

However, the Heavenly Realm executioner's arrival completely awakened Lu Ran, making him realize that even the Immortal Sheep he revered might be targeted by the God Demon.

Might even be questioned for past deeds?

Is the Immortal Sheep truly without abnormalities? Or perhaps, from Cheng Li's standpoint, he is unaware of the situation.

Lu Ran came to the side of Luoxian Pavilion, leaned sideways with his shoulder against a pavilion pillar:
"Sorry, I couldn't find Grandpa Cheng Xin."

"Mountain Master, do not blame yourself." Cheng Li sighed softly, "In life, nine out of ten things are unsatisfactory, and my second brother and I have long accepted this."

"Hmm." Lu Ran gazed at the Cang Mountain and Erhai under the night sky, responding quietly.

Cheng Xin, Hao Tian...

Wonder if they can be seen again.

Lu Ran knew too well about the harshness of the Holy Spirit Mountain, he just didn't want to admit the most likely outcome.

"Mountain Master, are you... above the Sea Realm already?"

"Heavenly Realm."

"Heavenly Realm..." Cheng Li chewed over the term.

"Still not enough."

Cheng Li secretly clicked his tongue, asked, "Above the Heavenly Realm, what is there?"

"Uh." Lu Ran thought about the divisions like the First Layer of Heaven, the Second Heaven, and said, "Heaven's Edge?"

Cheng Li: "..."

Lu Ran chuckled, "I will leave soon. Don't inform others of our return."

"Lady just instructed to have Little Rou send some food tomorrow morning."

"Oh?" Lu Ran immediately thought of the extremely fresh mushrooms, his intention changing swiftly, "Stir-fried mushrooms, I want to eat green mushrooms!"

"Hehe." Cheng Li laughed silently.

Just a second ago, said not to disturb others, and the next moment, directly ordered food?

"Hehe~" Lu Ran grinned widely, looked at the elder, "Go back, I'll stay by myself for a while."

"I take my leave." Cheng Li bowed and replied, swiftly departed.

The Mountain Master, still that Mountain Master of Luoxian Mountain.

Gentle in temperament, even with some youthful innocence, yet sharing a pavilion with him was truly too pressuring.

Lu Ran turned his head, gazing at the beautiful Erhai under the moonlight, watching the shimmering lake surface.

After a long time, he reached sideways with one hand and called forth an Ancient Bronze Mirror.

Nine out of ten things unsatisfactory?

There are always some satisfactory ones.

Accompanied by intense Divine Power fluctuations, in the cave beneath Heaven's Edge of the Holy Spirit Mountain Realm, Yan Chou looked forward.

"You can't return to the human world temporarily." The youth's voice lingered in the pitch-black cave, "I will tell her..."

Her ugly slave has been guarding the Cloud Sea Dust Clear Sword for her."

"Thank you, Young Master!" Yan Chou's hands trembled slightly, bowing to offer the Cloud Sea Sword.

The sword hilt entered Lu Ran's hand as he slowly retreated into the mirror.

"Phew~" The Landing Mirror dissipated.

"Buzz~" The Cloud Sea Dust Clear Sword lightly trembled.

Under the same starry sky, in the distant Beijing.

In a study of a residence, a woman wearing snow-white garments knelt at a low desk.

She held a brush with her slender hand, concentrating as she wrote something on Xuan paper.

A small flower pot sat on a corner of the desk, the exquisite weeping Xian Mo released a faint jasmine fragrance.

Mixing with ink fragrance, permeating the study.

Quiet night, elegant fragrance, dignified and tranquil person.

But all this beautiful atmosphere was abruptly disrupted.

The woman's hand holding the brush suddenly halted, the tip lingering on the Xuan paper, letting the ink stain more and more.

Staining deeper...

Her eyes, like deep cold pool waters, no longer icy cold as they quietly rippled.

The unfinished poetry on the paper seemed fitting:

"One mountain, two mountains, mountains high and sky far, chilly smoke and waters..."

...

Chapter 854: He, Immortal Jasmine

[Master!]

The clear message imprinted in her mind informed Qiao Wanjun that her perception was not mistaken.

In the past, the divine weapon, Cloud Sea Dust Clear Sword, which she left on the Heavenly Realm Battlefield, has now returned to the human world.

Her calm heart rippled with a wave, and she asked through the transmission: [How did you return to the human world?]

[The Young Master brought me back.]

Qiao Wanjun's pen-holding hand trembled slightly.

Ranran has returned?

In less than three years, did he break through the Mountain Realm, conquer the Heavenly Realm, and return to the human world?

The joy in Qiao Wanjun's heart was gradually replaced by doubt, such accomplishments are indeed unbelievable.

Even she herself could not achieve this level back then.

Or did the Immortal Sheep personally step in and fish Ranran out of the Heavenly Realm?

[Master...] The sword spirit knew the master's temperament well and did not dare to disturb when neglected, but the Cloud Sea Sword urged the sword spirit to communicate while being held in Lu Ran's hand.

[How did you meet?] Qiao Wanju transmitted again.

[The Young Master's Cloud Sea Blade overlapped with my domain, and that's how he found me.]

Qiao Wanju put down the brush, not surprised by this situation.

She glanced at the hanging Xian Mo flower in the corner of her desk, a gift from him, still blooming splendidly.

[Is he well?] Qiao Wanju reached out, her slender fingers gently brushing the petals.

[The Young Master is well, not lacking in charisma compared to you back in the day.]

Qiao Wanju revealed a faint smile: [At which level of heaven did you meet? Who accompanies you by your side?]

[Yan Chou, Chou Nu has always been by my side.]

Chou Nu...

A striking image of an emperor-robed man appeared in Qiao Wanju's mind.

Back in the day, it was Yan Chou who was the most unruly.

Unexpectedly, after her departure, it was him who constantly guarded her Divine Sword.

[Also, we met in the Mountain Realm.]

Qiao Wanju's finger gently pinching the petals paused slightly.

Met in the Mountain Realm?

[It was like this...] As the Cloud Sea Sword Spirit narrated, the smile on Qiao Wanju's face vanished and a vague frost appeared in the study, the temperature plummeting.

The god demons sent executioners to crush Da Xia's genius in the Mountain Realm?

Well,

that's indeed their conduct.

To ensure eternal dominance, exhausting every means.

From another angle, it seems Ranran made quite a name in the Mountain Realm, shaking the foundation of the god demons?

Qiao Wanju thought of the stubborn young figure: [Then how did you return?]

The sword spirit did not respond, instead asked: [The Young Master asked me to inquire of you, whether it is possible to communicate freely without worrying about being discovered by Divine-Sword One.]

[Hmm.] Qiao Wanju's response was straightforward.

With the dual guarantee of Immortal Sheep and Qiao Wanju, Lu Ran naturally felt at ease.

In Luoxian Pavilion, Lu Ran leaned against the pavilion pillar, watching the ethereal Qiao Wanju beside him, he softly called, "Mom."

The Cloud Sea Sword Spirit laughed.

All along, Lu Ran had been restraining his call to her, now finally having an excuse.

Admittedly, the ethereal Qiao Wanju was the perfect conduit for transmission.

She had a mental connection with Qiao Wanju, even being Qiao Wanju herself.

Every smile, every movement, all originating from the original.

She slowly lifted her ethereal palm, caressing Lu Ran's cheek: "You're back."

"Mm..." Lu Ran involuntarily closed his eyes.

Unfortunately, her palm was neither cold nor soft.

"Is Yuanxi with you?"

"Sorry, I didn't know you were so powerful, otherwise I would have told you when I took her away last year," Lu Ran apologized.

"You came back once?" Qiao Wanju did not dwell on the matter.

The siblings were unaware that because of this, their mother directly went to the Immortal Sheep to demand Yuanxi back!

Qiao Yuansi left a note saying she was going to Luoxian Mountain to meditate...

How could Qiao Wanju be fooled by such words?

As soon as she knew, she visited an Immortal Sheep disciple in the city, directly standing before the Immortal Sheep's small statue.

She learned a few details and received assurances from the Immortal Sheep but did not know her son had personally returned to the human world.

"Yes, I recruited a Heavenly Realm-Dust Shadow disciple in the Mountain Realm, he was the one who brought me back."

In the study of the Qiao Mansion, Qiao Wanju remained silent for a moment, then smiled slightly.

In other words, the Holy Spirit Mountain that ordinary people couldn't escape from in a lifetime, Ranran shredded the cage in just over a year.

A Heavenly Realm-Dust Shadow Believer?

Not to mention their strength exceeding the Holy Spirit Mountain, just this kind of person detached from the mundane world, able to recruit under his banner...

Ranran, indeed has skills.

[Mom, I still need to return to the Mountain Realm to prepare for ascension, to see what the Heavenly Realm looks like.]

[What level of strength are you currently?] Qiao Wanju quietly kneeling, gazing at the unfinished poem on the desk.

[Heavenly Realm, First Level of Heaven Realm.]

[Hmm.] Qiao Wanju sighed slightly.

Once, known throughout the human world as the River Realm youth, now after the forging of the Holy Spirit Mountain, he has reached the Heavenly Realm.

Lu Xing,

Your son has surpassed you, many times over.

Can you see it?

[Can mom enter the Mountain Realm with me?] The Cloud Sea Sword Spirit continued speaking in the first-person voice.

But there was a problem!

Divine Weapons follow their master, when had the Cloud Sea Sword Spirit ever begged others?

Thus the sword spirit's tone was somewhat stiff, difficult to fully imitate Lu Ran's words, losing much effect.

Qiao Wanju silently remained expressionless.

Under the same starry sky.

In the Luoxian Pavilion, Lu Ran looked at the virtual apparition of Qiao Wanju, whose gentle face gradually turned cold.

The words she uttered carried a hint of chill: "Your insistence on ascending to the Heavenly Realm is the mandate of the Immortal Sheep."

"I want to go too."

"Do you want to become someone like me?" The virtual apparition of Qiao Wanjun gently looked at Lu Ran.

Lu Ran pondered for a moment, then said in a deep voice, "I returned to the human world this time not because that great power of the Heavenly Realm sent me back."

Qiao Wanjun raised an eyebrow slightly, waiting for further explanation.

Lu Ran then lifted his head, gazing at the towering Immortal Sheep God Sculpture, waited for several seconds to confirm that the Immortal Sheep did not intend to stop him before he spoke:

"This time, I traversed the two realms by myself, initiating the Evil Technique-Mirror Flower Moon."

"Hmm?"

"The Immortal Sheep Lord granted me a God Demon Sculpture Garden, complete with all divine and evil sculptures alike." Lu Ran continued to look at the majestic Immortal Sheep Stone Sculpture.

The Sword Spirit perfectly replicated its master's reaction, the cold eyes slightly tightened!

"Your son is an Immortal Sheep Believer and also the lord of God Demon." Lu Ran turned around, facing the virtual apparition of Qiao Wanjun, "I can perform all divine and evil techniques."

Qiao Wanjun looked at Lu Ran, as if the entire person was frozen.

"However, the title of lord of God Demon is currently exaggerated." Lu Ran's tone shifted, "The stone sculptures in my Sculpture Garden don't have a divine position; all are pseudo-gods."

"You say... the Immortal Sheep has a God Demon Sculpture Garden?"

"Yes, I have already prepared for you the Sword One Stone Sculpture." Lu Ran confirmed, "You can bind with the stone sculpture, inherit all its abilities, and completely replace this pseudo-god stone sculpture."

In the study room.

Qiao Wanju stared blankly at the drooping Immortal jasmine, her mind filled with the Sword Spirit's words:

[You will transform into the pseudo-god·Sword One Stone Sculpture!]

[You will become a pure energy body, able to recruit believers, create minions, accept the Power of Faith from the human clan, and cultivate Holy Spirit Energy.]

[Until one day in the future, we will shatter the Divine·Sword One and seize her divine position, making you the new god of this world.]

Qiao Wanju's gaze subtly shifted, her eyes flickering.

After a long silence, she conveyed her thoughts: [Did the Immortal Sheep tell you its true identity?]

The God Demon Sculpture Garden is not something that God Demon should possess.

This sculpture garden has such astonishing effects, capable of even assimilating the human clan, completely transforming the existence of the human clan, targeting All Gods and demons...

This Immortal Sheep, ranked last, cannot possibly be a normal deity!

What is its real identity?

And what is its purpose?

To overthrow the rule of God Demon, monopolize human world resources? Is it confident to lead the human clan's new god against foreign invaders?

Or perhaps, the Immortal Sheep is originally from the foreign enemy's camp?

Qiao Wanju knitted her brows slightly.

But the style of foreign enemies is not of the infiltration type. Creating new gods also contradicts their philosophy...

Key is whether this method can be attributed to the foreign enemies?

At this moment, the child revealing such secrets, must also be at the behest of the Immortal Sheep.

At least it has permitted it.

What is it attempting...

[The Immortal Sheep Lord's true identity... uh, the Immortal Sheep Lord asked me to tell you something.]

[What?]

[It says, you don't need to trust it, you just need to trust me.]

Qiao Wanju mused: [What about you? Do you trust the Immortal Sheep?]

[I do.]

[You seem very certain.]

In the Luoxian Pavilion.

Lu Ran leaned his shoulder against the pavilion's column, lowered his head and chuckled: "I seem... to have never believed in gods.

Even on the day of worshipping gods, on the God Worship Platform, almost driven to the end of the road by the Rou Paperman, I don't think I truly believed in gods.

Otherwise, wouldn't the countless deities come, not even one of them?"

"Whew~"

The night wind passed by, bringing a hint of coolness.

Lu Ran's hair gently danced, the bitter smile on his face gaining a touch of sincerity: "The Immortal Sheep Lord appeared on the platform, not though because I believed in gods.

Since the moment I joined under the Immortal Sheep, it has never asked me to worship it, let alone trust it."

"Then what did it ask of you?"

"It said that believing in gratitude and enmity, believing in cause and effect, is enough."

The majestic Immortal Sheep God Sculpture stood silently on the mountain peak.

The young man's soft whisper was carried by the gentle breeze into the vast night, seemingly also into the ears of the towering divine sculpture.

In the Qiao Mansion study,

Qiao Wanjun's delicate hand reached forward, gently lifting an Immortal jasmine.

In the Luoxian Pavilion,

The virtual apparition of Qiao Wanjun reached forward with her palm, gently lifting Lu Ran's face.

In both pairs of beautiful eyes, there was the same emotion: "Alright, I will have a talk with it."

"Then you... should I stay longer in the human world? If mother joins me into the mountain..."

"No, with such capabilities, you must not stop growing for a moment." Qiao Wanjun smiled gently, carrying a touch of encouragement, "Go to the Heavenly Realm early, mother's old Cloud Sea faction, leave it to you."

"Oh." Lu Ran couldn't help but feel a bit disappointed.

"This matter is extremely important, requiring utmost caution."

The Sword Spirit was transmitting mother's words, when a deep, hoarse voice suddenly echoed in Lu Ran's mind: [It seems you have yet another reason to get stronger quickly.]

"Immortal Sheep Lord?"

[Heh.] The Immortal Sheep gave a cold laugh, [Your mother is being imprisoned, isn't that obvious?]

Lu Ran clenched his lips tightly, looking at the virtual apparition of Qiao Wanju before him.

She never mentioned her situation.

Neither did she speak of any grievances.

In sight, there was only a gentle smiling face.

Which pained Lu Ran's heart.

...

Chapter 855: A Fake God

Luoxian Residence, in the bedroom.

Inside the gauzy bed canopy, Jiang Ruyi, who had been sleeping soundly, suddenly opened her eyes.

Her heart was pounding wildly, and she quickly turned her head to look.

By the dim glow of the small nightlight, she saw a shadowy figure moving behind the thin veil.

Jiang Ruyi, though a fourth-rank in the Sea Realm, still felt like a rootless drift in the face of the Great Power of the Heavenly Realm. Her emotions could only sway with the other person's moods.

Slowly, a hand parted the canopy, and their eyes met.

The usually calm and composed Jiang Ruyi suddenly panicked, feeling the stranger's aura unfamiliar.

She had walked with him through storms, shared victories and defeats, fought and fled together.

But she had never seen Lu Ran in such a state.

Like a silent, trapped beast.

Oppressively terrifying.

Coupled with his celestial might, it made Jiang Ruyi feel suffocated.

Yan Shuangzi, who was secretly guarding them, also struggled to breathe, as if the entire Luoxian Residence was being pressed down and drowned under the deep sea by his hand.

Jiang Ruyi tried to compose herself, softly saying, "You're back."

"Mm." Lu Ran turned and sat on the edge of the bed.

The billowing bed canopy slowly fell, obscuring his eyes.

Jiang Ruyi carefully leaned forward, hugged him from behind, and gently asked, "Not feeling well?"

Lu Ran pursed his lips but remained silent.

Seeing he didn't respond, Jiang Ruyi asked no further.

She didn't know what had transpired that night. Lu Ran's unusual state might be related to the future path or perhaps Aunt Qiao.

After all, Lu Ran had left with the third-tier Divine Weapon, Cloud Sea Dust Clear Sword.

Upon returning, he became this heavy-hearted.

After what seemed a long time, Lu Ran lifted a hand, grasped her slender fingers wrapped around his chest, and gently held them, "You're about to reach the peak, aren't you?"

"Yes, it's time for a retreat."

"Then let's go back."

"I've asked Senior Sister Cheng Rou to send breakfast, let's eat something tomorrow morning," Jiang Ruyi said softly.

Of course, breakfast wasn't important.

What mattered was that Lu Ran had just exited seclusion. For almost a month, he had been in the midst of an advancement, hardly closing his eyes.

Though the body of a great power from the Heavenly Realm had changed somewhat, taking the first step toward transforming into a Pure Energy Body, Lu Ran had not yet shed his mortal flesh.

"Haven't had plain congee for a long time."

Jiang Ruyi whispered, resting her forehead gently against the side of Lu Ran's head.

"Okay." Lu Ran removed his shoes.

As the two lay on the bed, Jiang Ruyi resting on Lu Ran's arm, suddenly said, "You could borrow the smoke-blue veil from Sister Yuxiang and go play with the Little Tabby, do you miss it?"

Ah, Sister Cat...

Lu Ran was indeed diverted, recalling the little creature wrapped in a large bath towel, rolled into a bundle, looking adorable.

It had been over four years since they found the Little Tabby.

Back then, it must have just entered adulthood.

How long do tabby cats live?

A dozen years?

Lu Ran believed that the Jiang family's uncle and aunt would take good care of the little one, though he didn't know if, by the time he completed everything, the Little Tabby would still be alive.

Would it be able to wait for the day when its owner takes it home?

...

The next morning, at daybreak, a bamboo basket appeared "refreshed" on the small stone table in the courtyard.

The mushrooms indeed tasted exceedingly fresh! Even the plain congee tasted fragrant and sweet to Lu Ran.

Worldly matters,

are truly wonderful.

Except for that pile of stones, stubbornly rooted like chronic ailments all over.

After enjoying a meal, Lu Ran led his team back to Holy Spirit Mountain, Heaven's Edge.

Jiang Ruyi took the young Blazing Phoenix to retreat for cultivation, while Lu Ran summoned Feng Yan, the two generals, gave them a few instructions, and then opened an Ancient Bronze Mirror for them.

Nearing noon, Luo Ying received an urgent call from the Sect Master and immediately set off.

"Sect Master!"

"Sect Master!" Xun Luo and his wife swiftly flew to Heaven's Edge, respectfully saluting the young man in white robes sitting at the cliff's edge.

Unexpectedly, the Sect Master said, "I am back from the Human World."

Luo Ying suppressed his excitement, "Sect Master, you..."

Lu Ran still didn't turn around, directly saying, "I am the Human World Sect Master of the Immortal Sheep Sect, overseeing Luoxian Mountain, with kind grandparents and good-hearted uncles and aunts in the mountain.

You should know the nature of my sect's disciples.

If you wish, you may send your children to be fostered at Luoxian Mountain, and I will assign a mother to take care of them."

Xun Yifei couldn't help but look up, mustering the courage to gaze at the back of the Great Power of the Heavenly Realm.

He understood Lu Ran's words, that they could send their children back to the Human World to grow up healthy, relieving the couple of their worries.

But the couple would have to stay in the mountain to cultivate.

It makes sense, the Ran Sect still had goals to accomplish, and there couldn't be delays.

"Thank you, Sect Master!" Luo Ying said with emotion, "Could we have some time to discuss this?"

"No rush," Lu Ran reached to the side, summoning the Ancient Bronze Mirror, "I called you here to integrate you with the Stone Sculpture, let's go."

The couple got up and approached the cliff's edge, following Lu Ran into the Landing Mirror.

In just one step, they reached Mo Gu Peak.

Lu Ran no longer needed a transit station.

From the distant eastern seas directly to the deepest part of the Northwest Desert, only a Landing Mirror was needed.

"Sect Master!" Xue Fengchen flew in quickly, wielding the Divine Weapon, Soul Devourer Axe, "The site is prepared, aside from Yun Yan and me, there are no other living beings inside or outside the peak, or in the sky above and the ground below."

"Good." Lu Ran patted Xue Fengchen on the shoulder, standing on the collapsed Mo Gu Peak, gazing into the distance.

Within a radius of several hundred kilometers, there wasn't a soul in sight.

Everywhere you looked, there was desolation.

This was, in Lu Ran's mind, the end of the world.

There should be no living creatures here.

"Lead the way, Feng Divine General."

"Yes!" Xue Fengchen immediately complied, leading a few people down the mountain.

In one morning, the Feng Yan duo had dug out a massive space at the base of Mo Gu Peak's mountain.

This action was necessary.

In the future, many Ran Sect warriors will fuse with stone sculptures at the end of this world.

As Lu Ran entered the mountain's interior, another figure emerged from underground.

"Sect Master!" Gao Yunyan slowly surfaced, wearing a Divine Power Bead String around his neck, with an earthen yellow Treasure Bead radiating brilliant light.

This Magic Artifact not only allowed the wearer to travel freely underground but also served as a small night light.

"Thank you for your hard work," Lu Ran said smoothly. "You and Feng Divine General must diligently cultivate. Although you won't be the first to fuse with stone sculptures in Ran Sect, you can still compete for first place."

"Please, Sect Master, enlighten us," Gao Yunyan said with great curiosity.

"You and Fengchen are the Barbaric and West Desolation, the opposites in the eyes of the world. But essentially, God and Demon share the same source, two sides of the same coin."

Lu Ran looked at Xue Fengchen: "At that time, you as Divine Sculpture and Evil Sculpture can combine together, perfectly blending as one."

Gao Yunyan's phoenix-like eyes shone brightly as he looked at Xue Fengchen.

The former big girl of West Desolation, now the female fiend of the Barbaric Wilderness, was never one to be shy.

Gao Yunyan did not hide the anticipation in his heart and was very curious about the world-ending power that would result from the fusion of Divine Sculpture and Evil Sculpture!

"However, the premise of your cooperation is being evenly matched," Lu Ran smiled looking at Xue Fengchen, "Otherwise, the weaker will become food for the stronger."

Xue Fengchen: "..."

Gao Yunyan's lips curled slightly, then he defended, "Rest assured, Sect Master, Fengchen's cultivation has already caught up."

"Hmm." Lu Ran stepped toward the center of the space, examining the seemingly strong walls, "No matter which one of you is stronger, at that time, you must hold a heart of compassion, and give the other a way out.

You two are my confidential generals. Losing one, I'd be heartbroken."

"Yes!"

"Yes!" Feng Yan duo responded in unison.

"Come, Luo Divine General." Lu Ran reached forward with one hand, "You need not show mercy, after replacing Ash's divine sculpture, go ahead and swallow the Evil God Fisherman."

Luo Ying felt a bit excited inside, then immediately sensed an overwhelming energy surge!

"Hoo!!"

The fierce wind waves blew Lu Ran's hair backward, his robe fluttering loudly.

The pure energy spread out, vast as the ocean, quickly assembling a huge stone sculpture.

Inside the mountain, it was pitch black, but Lu Ran, with his sharp eyes, clearly saw the Fake God Ash.

Upon a cursory glance, her massive body was at least two hundred meters away!

Ash wasn't known for her beauty.

Compared to most humanoid divine sculptures, she was indeed lacking in looks.

But her equipment was remarkable!

She wore a splendid Canglong Treasure Armor, with a blue base and adorned with dark golden patterns.

She had thick and long braids, holding a blue long bow, poised in an archery stance.

Two Canglongs coiled around her, exuding an impressive aura!

God Ash!

Of course, the stone sculpture was gray, all the colors were Lu Ran's imagination, as he had once seen shadow images of Ash online.

"Luo Divine General," Lu Ran said in a trembling voice, "Go touch... touch, fuse, and replace her!"

"As you command!" Luo Ying braced against the terrifying momentum, wielding her Second-rank Divine Weapon, the Golden Law Bow, and flew forward.

The moment her hand touched the stone sculpture, the sound of cracking continued.

"Crack! Crack..."

Pieces of stone began to fall off.

"Buzz!"

The ground shook, and fragments of stone and sand fell incessantly.

Xue Fengchen frowned slightly; the space they had carved out, half underground, half at the mountain's base, uncertain if this cavern could withstand the turbulent energy.

"Deploy the Sand Sea," Xue Fengchen suggested.

"Okay." The duo stomped their feet, as the West Desolation Sand Sea and Barbaric Sand Sea spread out, swiftly climbing the stone walls under the master's guidance, propping up the cavern.

"Boooming..."

Ash's stone sculpture exploded violently, the airwaves surged, and fine gravel flooded into Luo Ying's body.

It's hard to imagine how a small human a little over 1.7 meters tall could fully receive such a massive being.

"Uh." Luo Ying's eyes widened, feeling as if her body would explode from the energy!

At this moment, Lu Ran rode in abruptly.

Luo Ying's expression changed!

Her body involuntarily transformed into a Pure Energy Body, entering the God Demon Sculpture Garden through Lu Ran's pupils.

"Hmm..." Lu Ran's nasal sound was low, one hand supporting his forehead, looking quite uncomfortable.

The Feng Yan duo dared not disturb the Sect Master, continuing to use the thick Sand Sea to maintain the cavern's stability.

Xun Yifei was somewhat dumbfounded!

Due to the darkness inside, he could only rely on his Divine Weapon for perception, but the Waterfall Flow Spring Blade informed its master that the lady had vanished.

Gone!

"Divine Seeking General."

"Sect Master?" Xun Yifei quickly responded.

"In a few days, I'll give her back to you," Lu Ran said, distressed as he rubbed his temples.

"Ah... okay, okay."

...

Chapter 856: Strange Opposites

Following the usual naming convention, the residence of Lu Ran at the ends of the earth was naturally named "Tianya Residence."

After returning from Mo Gu Peak, Lu Ran went back to Tianya Residence and collapsed onto the bed.

The fusion of Luoshen and Divine Sculpture was causing him immense distress!

Lu Ran had a bit of a devil-may-care attitude; since he was going to act foolishly, he might as well go all the way.

He took the opportunity to activate the Sword One Divine Statue and Night Charm Evil Sculpture.

The Evil Demon, Night Charm, is a sworn enemy of the Huang Que Sect, and Lu Ran had already prepared to deal with Sky Sparrow Pavilion's Pavilion Master, Golden Sparrow.

As for the Sword One Divine Sculpture...

On one hand, it was prepared for his mother; on the other hand, Sword One possessed a Divine Technique: Frost Sword Heart!

This technique was quite extraordinary!

As everyone knows, Divine Cold Plum and the Evil God Ice Plum Demon Queen are both known as "Little Sword One."

This pair of God Demons can only allow their disciples to ignore harsh cold environments, enhancing their bodily attributes in an icy and snowy environment.

Whereas the true Sword One not only possesses the above abilities but can also be immune to ice and snow skills!

Admittedly, Lu Ran is not a swordsman and cannot master the various divine techniques of the Sword One Sect, but this actively opened passive skill will undoubtedly make Lu Ran harder to kill!

He certainly needed to equip it.

And let's not forget, a First-class God Demon possesses a Heavenly Realm move!

However, Lu Ran still did not know how powerful this sect's Heavenly Realm move was.

Because he was still acting foolishly.

Lying on the bed...

On the 8th day of September, a guest arrived at Tianya Residence.

Although the leader of the Shadow Guard Team, Yan Shuangzi, allowed this person in, the one guarding the hall, Chou Nu, stopped the visitor.

"The Young Master is still resting, Nightmare Guardian, please return." Yan Chou sat on the Taishi Chair, looking at the woman in the raincoat as sharp as a knife.

"Ha." Deng Yuxiang snorted coldly, "If you can let him rest more, I would thank you."

Yan Chou looked at the woman expressionlessly.

Deng Yuxiang: "Every time he activates a Stone Sculpture or nurtures one to upgrade, his brain buzzes, he suffers greatly, and he can't sleep."

Yan Chou nodded silently, certainly aware of the Stone Sculpture matter, after all, Lu Ran had already granted him the Evil Sculpture, Evil Spear Emperor.

However, he did not know Lu Ran would also experience this situation.

"Your approach is correct, in the future, protect him when this happens."

"Thank you for your guidance, Nightmare Guardian." Yan Chou wasn't concerned about the woman's attitude and nodded lightly.

Deng Yuxiang turned and walked towards the bedroom.

"Whew~"

Yan Chou flew like the clouds swiftly blocking the bedroom door.

Deng Yuxiang looked at the "Emperor" in front of her, uncertain whether to be angry or pleased.

Perhaps a bit of both.

The First Protector of the Ran Sect held a position of high prestige.

Few within the Ran Sect dared to oppose her.

However, Aunt Qiao's old troop in Cloud Sea forcefully entered the ends of the earth and evidently did not follow the Ran Sect's leadership, recognizing only the Young Master.

"Outside, what's the noise?" A young man's voice suddenly emerged from within the bedroom.

The two Heavenly Realm powers facing each other simultaneously turned towards the bedroom direction:

"Sect Leader."

"Young Master."

"What's going on?" Lu Ran rubbed his temples in frustration.

"Sect Leader, I came to see you."

Upon hearing a familiar female voice, Lu Ran's fingers paused, immediately saying: "Come quickly."

Outside the bedroom, Deng Yuxiang glanced lightly at Yan Chou before stretching her long legs and walking into the bedroom.

"Come in." From behind the screen, the young man's voice came through again.

Deng Yuxiang took off her leather boots and stepped onto the soft fox fur carpet; just after bypassing the screen, her expression turned a bit strange.

Lu Ran was lying across the bed, with his head hanging off the edge.

Deng Yuxiang, naturally understanding the situation, couldn't help but shoot him a playful glare.

Yet she came to the bedside, knelt down, and lifted Lu Ran's head with her hands: "Is the fusion with Luoshen not complete yet?"

"It was done long ago; it's mainly the Sword One Divine Sculpture," Lu Ran muttered, "That troublesome Sword One reached the First Level of Heaven Realm and only recently stopped, causing me severe misfortune."

"With this upgrade, how many Stone Sculpture activation slots did you gain?" Deng Yuxiang inquired.

"28 slots."

Hearing this, Deng Yuxiang nodded with satisfaction.

Now it's like a fish leaping into a vast sea.

She gently pressed Lu Ran's head, then asked: "What is Sword One's Heavenly Realm move?"

"One Sword from Heaven!" Lu Ran, looking at the woman's inverted face, exclaimed excitedly, "This technique summons an incredibly grandiose Frost Great Sword suspended in mid-air.

Within the Frost Great Sword, endless flying swords are unleashed, annihilating all creatures within a certain range, and they automatically lock on to enemies!"

Deng Yuxiang nodded again, sounds formidable?

Unfortunately, a Heavenly Realm move is only available to First-class Gods.

Like her, a Second-class God, only has River and Sea moves.

Third-class God Demons fare worse, possessing only River Realm Techniques.

The worst of all are the Fourth Rank and below God Demons, who have no great moves, only small skills...

"By the way, Sis!" Lu Ran's expression turned peculiar, "Can you imagine? Asher's opposition is indeed the Fishman Fisherman!"

"Oh?" Deng Yuxiang was indeed a bit surprised.

In the Human World of Da Xia, after Asher's disciples slay the Evil Demon, Fishman Fisherman, they indeed can claim rewards from the God Lord.

But the problem is, the old fisherman is really weak!

The Evil Technique consists only of broken fishing nets and worn-out fishing boats, not even having a single powerful move.

And what kind of existence is Ash?

One of the Four Heroes of War!

A dignified Second-class God, with all the great techniques of Jianghai at her disposal.

Is the old fisherman fit to be Ash's (South Sea Bow) opponent?

The answer is... indeed fit!

"Just now in the Sculpture Garden, I went with Divine General Luo to find the old fisherman. She confirmed both sides are of the same origin, two sides of the same coin, and has now already devoured the old fisherman's Evil Sculpture, currently digesting it."

Deng Yuxiang pondered, "If I have to say, there are indeed a few similarities in their skills, but the difference in strength is vast."

Lu Ran thought for a moment and said, "Lord Immortal Sheep told me that the Evil Demon wasn't created by the gods but was originally one being, split into two entities."

"So?"

"I am wondering, during the split, did Ash take the proactive side? Did she seize most of the power and cast away the unfavorable parts?"

Deng Yuxiang didn't really understand how God Demons "split the family."

If possible, she'd really like to see it.

Lu Ran continued, "Look at Ash! She's wearing the Canglong Treasure Armor and holding the Sea Suppressing Bow, capable of shooting Canglongs one after another.

And look at the old fisherman! He's wearing old fishing clothes and holding a broken fish spear, only able to summon a school of small fish."

Deng Yuxiang: "..."

Please, no more.

The more you say, the worse it gets...

Compared to other gods and demons who are well-matched, it feels like there's something special between Ash and the old fisherman?

"Actually, it's fine." Lu Ran suddenly changed the tone, "At least Divine General Luo can travel on the fishing boat in the sea in the future... Aren't you envious?"

"Hmm?" Deng Yuxiang looked down at Lu Ran.

Only then did she realize what his abrupt change in topic was intended for.

"Do you want to merge with the Night Charm Evil Sculpture? I'll activate the Divine Sculpture of the North Wind, and your North Wind Divine Skill will return to you!"

"I heard Shuangzi say, you've already decided to ascend to the Heavenly Realm on the fifteenth day." Deng Yuxiang gently shook her head, rejecting him straightforwardly, "We should get familiar with the environment there first before discussing the merging."

"Actually, having you living in my mind is quite nice too." Lu Ran whispered.

To be honest, ever since Luo Ying settled in the Sculpture Garden, Lu Ran felt a profound sense of security!

Yu Changsheng was the first to reside in Lu Ran's mind, offering him stability.

But From Dragon Guardian is, after all, a supportive type.

Who is Luo Ying?

The top killer of Ran Sect!

Her arrival made Lu Ran feel confident! It was like carrying a mighty weapon with him at all times, ready to summon her at any moment.

"Hiss..." Lu Ran suddenly inhaled sharply, "Lighter, please, it hurts~"

He was indulging in a massage, naturally not activating the Water Flow Armor, and the fingertips of the Big Nightmare exerted a slight force, causing his little head to ache.

"Let's not talk about this anymore." Deng Yuxiang gently spoke, her fingers easing up.

"Oh." Lu Ran pouted his lips.

Seeing his little expression, Deng Yuxiang suppressed her laughter and said nothing more.

Lu Ran quietly enjoyed the moment for a while before saying, "What brought you to me?"

"Lingyi."

"What happened to her?" Lu Ran was a bit panicked.

The little one is such a precious darling, nothing must happen to her.

"I've spoken with Yutang, planning to send the child back to the Human World and let her parents help raise her." Deng Yuxiang gently massaged Lu Ran's temples.

"Isn't Lingyi not even two years old? Being separated from her parents, will it be okay?"

"It will just urge Yutang and Manni to work harder." Deng Yuxiang's actions were gentle, but her words were rather ruthless, "If they want to see the child sooner, they'll need to train even more diligently."

Lu Ran: "..."

You really are a tough aunt~

"Once they've ascended to the Heavenly Realm and can create a physical body, they'll be able to return to see the child." Deng Yuxiang looked into Lu Ran's eyes, "What do you think?"

Lu Ran shifted his gaze, remaining silent.

This is a matter for your Deng Family... Wait, there's also the Bai Family.

Taking the great-granddaughter away from Elder Bai seems a bit cruel to the old man.

"Did Elder Bai agree?" Lu Ran inquired.

"Just about to talk about him." Deng Yuxiang's face became a bit serious, "Are you planning to have him continue fighting with you, or will you let him retire in peace?"

Hearing this, Lu Ran furrowed his brows slightly.

Elder Bai has lived a drifting life, it's been too hard for him in this lifetime, and now he has the chance to indeed enjoy his later years and family joy.

But, personally, Lu Ran still wants to grant Bai Yanhui a Divine Position.

The Deng Family and the Bai Family are undoubtedly his own people.

Now, with Bai Yanhui over seventy, Lu Ran doesn't want him to continue aging as a human until passing away.

Lu Ran pondered for a long time and finally said, "Let's respect Elder Bai's decision and ask him."

Deng Yuxiang: "Just follow your heart, no need to consider others."

Lu Ran, however, smiled, looking at the inverted beautiful face before him, "If it were up to me, you would already be residing in my mind now."

Deng Yuxiang's face slightly froze, feeling only a slight lightness in her arms.

Lu Ran sat up, rubbing his messy hair, "You send Elder Bai and Gold Sparrow to Heaven's Edge, I'll be waiting for them there."

Deng Yuxiang watched his back, and after a moment, she couldn't help but lower her head and smile:

"Alright."

...

Chapter 857: The Real Culprit

"Ring ring~ ring~"

Accompanied by the clear and melodious sound of bells, a petite girl in a golden dress quickly arrived at Heaven's Edge.

She respectfully saluted, her voice cheerful, "Sect Master, did you call Sparrow?"

"Hm?" Lu Ran was quite surprised, slightly turning his head, looking at the charming girl behind with the corner of his eye, "So happy?"

Golden Sparrow: "Yingying said... um, the Pavilion Master of Starry Valley said, something particularly good will happen!"

Chang Ying?

Lu Ran slightly raised an eyebrow, "It seems you two have a good relationship."

Golden Sparrow's face was covered with a golden veil, hiding her shy face, "Yes, the Pavilion Master of Starry Valley is very nice, takes good care of Sparrow."

Lu Ran's expression was somewhat strange.

Chang Ying is just a kid, isn't she several years younger than you?

Both are currently in the Sea Realm-Second Rank, so they are qualified to be friends.

But the problem is, Chang Ying was a late bloomer. Early on, when Golden Sparrow was in the Second Rank of Sea Realm and was the Pavilion Master of Sky Sparrow Pavilion, Chang Ying was still in the Fourth Rank of River Realm, being a slave in Starry Valley.

Hmm... truly an odd pair of friends.

Lu Ran couldn't help but recall, the strict Deng Yuxiang and the picky Jiang Ruyi had both given positive evaluations to Chang Ying.

This was completely contrary to Lu Ran's impression of her as "silly, dark, and sweet."

Tsk tsk~

Chang the gambler is doing wonders! Ever since joining Holy Spirit Mountain, she's undergone a transformation.

"What your Yingying said is very correct, there is indeed a good thing happening." Lu Ran beckoned to the girl in the golden dress, "Come over."

"Yes." Golden Sparrow immediately got up and came over.

"Ring ring~ ring~"

The Heavenly Sound Bell tied to her ankle constantly bumped against her fair little feet, making joyful sounds again.

However, as Golden Sparrow approached the cliff's edge, her movements visibly slowed a bit.

The Majestic Heaven Realm is indeed difficult to deal with, even harder to approach.

"I have prepared the Evil Sculpture·Nine Infernal Sparrow for you, starting today, you'll join my sect."

"Good... good."

"What, don't want to?"

"I do! Sparrow is willing!" Golden Sparrow quickly explained, "It's just that being around the Sect Master, Sparrow feels a little... a little scared."

"Hehe." Lu Ran chuckled, lifting his hand.

Golden Sparrow, obedient and clever, did her best to restrain her inner fear and leaned her little head under the young man's palm.

"Whoo!!"

A massive, skeletal, enormous bone sparrow, with eerie green ghostly fire burning between its bones, suddenly descended!

Evil God·Nine Infernal Sparrow!

"From now on, your growth limit will no longer be restricted, make sure to cultivate diligently." Lu Ran gently advised.

"Yes... absolutely!" Golden Sparrow trembled slightly with joy, but couldn't withstand the dual pressure of Lu Ran and the shadow of the Evil God.

Nowadays, Lu Ran had come to understand some rules.

The life of the Human Clan is short and fragile, yet it can bloom into incredibly brilliant colors like fireworks!

How fast do the followers of the Human Clan grow?

Most of them can fully realize their talent in their youth or middle age.

There are also a few extremely terrifying beings who can, in just a few years, directly threaten the status of God Demons!

Like people such as Golden Sparrow and Luo Ying, they have obviously passed the phase of explosive growth.

Gradually returning to silence.

The ceiling is right here; even if your room's ceiling is only three meters high, no matter how high you jump, you can only touch three meters.

After Lu Ran's intervention, the ceiling was completely blown off.

More than just jumping?

You are to fly into the sky!

"Uh." Golden Sparrow let out a muffled hum; even with the protection of the shadow of the Evil God, she couldn't avoid suffering some minor injuries while breaking the original master-servant contract.

Black flames ignited in Lu Ran's hand, nurturing her mind and spirit.

Golden Sparrow's heart was elated!

She was originally a disciple of Huang Que but was all too aware of the might of the nemesis-Nine Infernal Sparrow.

This race possesses the wailing technique that causes heart-wrenching pain-Grieving Soul Cry; it can launch corrosive bone feathers-Seven Bone Quill.

It has the hidden technique-Ghostly Sparrow Concealment; it can repair and reinforce a pair of bone wings with the skill-Ghost Bone Wings.

It can summon countless sparrow shadows with the domain technique-Ghostly Sparrow Thousand Shadows; also has the Spirit Defense Technique-Nine Infernal Heart.

As a third-rank Evil God, Nine Infernal Sparrow also possesses the River Realm Technique—Devourer Sun Fierce Sparrow!

Once this technique is activated, the Nine Infernal Sparrow will transform into a gigantic bone sparrow true form, whose cries will plunge the world into darkness, triggering an eclipse-like phenomenon.

Each cry further summons clusters of eerie green ghostly fire, descending from the sky.

The ghostly fire has a strong corrosive effect, quite significant, somewhat countering the major move of the Huang Que Sect-Great Sun Burning Sky Sparrow!

In the same rank, when Huang Que disciples see the Nine Infernal Sparrow clan, they are likely to be overwhelmingly beaten.

Now Golden Sparrow transformed, becoming the Stone Sculpture·Nine Infernal Sparrow herself!

How could she not be overjoyed?

Lu Ran could also sense her excitement, couldn't help but sigh in his heart, "Sigh..."

Look at the Nine Infernal Sparrow!

This is what one would call an Evil God!

Then look at the fishermen...

Those pitiful old fishermen, even if Ash's disciples helped them put on shoes, they would be too dirty to wear!

"Thank you for Sect Master's grace." Golden Sparrow, after a while, gently rubbed her head against Lu Ran's palm.

Lu Ran couldn't help but smile, this adorable girl in the golden dress truly knew how to be endearing.

He withdrew his hand, instructed, "Go back now."

"Yes." Golden Sparrow paused for a moment, then unfolded a pair of pale white bone wings on her back, with faintly spreading ghostly green flames between the bones.

A chilling breath swept directly towards Lu Ran's face.

After changing allegiance, Golden Sparrow no longer had the ability to shapeshift.

Fortunately, she still had bone wings and could still fly.

"By the way." Lu Ran suddenly said, "In a few days, I will go out on a mission. I don't know when I'll return. Look after Little Yuanxi for me."

"Okay!" Golden Sparrow immediately agreed.

Actually, there was no need for Lu Ran to specifically instruct her; Golden Sparrow was well-versed in the ways of survival and was eager to maintain a good relationship with Qiao Yuansi.

In fact, the two of them usually communicated a lot.

Yet recently, Qiao Yuansi has been extremely diligent in his cultivation, staying in the seclusion room all day without coming out.

Much like a student immersing himself in the library before exams.

Golden Sparrow dared not disturb him, and it was for this reason she "developed" a new companion—Chang Ying.

Ever since she proactively befriended the Pavilion Master of Starry Valley, it was as if Golden Sparrow had unlocked the door to a new world.

Especially when she transformed into Little Huang Que and landed beside the ebony-skinned girl, the other's large dark hand seemed able to completely envelop her, yet always gently stroked her lustrous golden feathers...

This gave Golden Sparrow a strong sense of security.

She even grew somewhat attached.

Unfortunately...

Golden Sparrow thought to herself, now that she has switched allegiances, she can no longer transform into Little Huang Que.

Speaking of which, From Dragon Guardian could wield both the Dragon Carp and Mo Li skills.

Does this mean that as long as she can satisfy the Sect Master, one day, the Huang Que Divine Technique might also return?

Thinking of this, Golden Sparrow became more expectant, not daring to delay any longer, she swiftly flew away from Heaven's Edge at Lu Ran's order.

Lu Ran watched the girl fly into the distance, his gaze slowly lowering.

Not far behind him, an old man in a white robe was quietly waiting.

Their eyes met, scrutinizing each other.

Since Bai Yanhui saw the light again, he had seen Lu Ran once, though the night was too dark and his eyes too moist to see clearly.

But now, Bai Yanhui had a clear view of the young man in the white robe.

Even younger and more heroic than imagined.

The youth merely sat there quietly, a kind smile on his face, yet the mighty heavenly aura surrounding the cliff reminded all beings to lower their heads.

"Sect Master," Bai Yanhui bowed his head and said.

"Elder Bai, how have you been?" Lu Ran looked at the venerable old man, who with eyes was even more akin to the Caster himself.

"Everything is well, thanks to the Sect Master's grace," Bai Yanhui expressed his gratitude.

Lu Ran turned around, "Now I can freely travel to and from the human world. The Nightmare Guardian found me, asking me to return Lingyi and let the Deng Family couple raise him. Does Elder Bai have any thoughts?"

Bai Yanhui respectfully replied, "I will follow the Sect Master's arrangements."

Lu Ran gazed at the vast sea, "Manni is my classmate, Yutang is my brother. I can give Elder Bai a choice.

You can return to the human world and enjoy familial bliss, or stay at Ran Sect, inheriting a Divine Sculpture."

Bai Yanhui lowered his head, his gaze gentle, "Ever since meeting the family bloodline, I haven't been as carefree as before."

"Oh?"

"I wish for the world to become a bit more stable," Bai Yanhui said softly.

Lu Ran smiled, understanding the old man's decision.

The Valley Master of Sinless Valley, who had wandered all his life, had been diligent for two decades, yet ultimately failed to protect everything.

How to remain sinless?

Weakness is the original sin.

Yet destiny loves to toy with people, rarely granting favors.

Having lost everything, Bai Yanhui now possessed everything again, including things worth striving for.

"The Sect Master's immense grace cannot be repaid. I am willing to serve the Sect Master with all my strength," the old man's voice was full of resolve.

Lu Ran looked at the shimmering sea and nodded lightly.

The sea appeared calm, but beneath the surface, undercurrents surged.

Much like the current state of affairs.

Lu Ran slowly raised his head, looking towards the blue sky.

The God Demon seemed to still hold all control, thinking that by dispatching Heaven Realm Executors, they could clean up the evildoers in Holy Spirit Mountain.

Yet little did they know,

The lurking evildoers were about to surface and attack the Heavenly Realm.

"Elder Bai, wait a few days. I will collect some Holy Spirit Energy from the islands. Before the fifteenth, I will find you again."

Lu Ran's Evil Mirror Demon Sculpture had long reached the first level of the Heavenly Realm, able to summon 10 Sea Realm minions—Evil Mirror Demons.

Yet it wasn't necessary.

River Realm Evil Mirror Demon minions were sufficient to garrison a sea island and collect Holy Spirit Energy; calculated, that's a hundred Evil Mirror Demons, which is a hundred islands!

Such logistical support is enough for nurturing Stone Sculptures at or below the Sea Realm level.

Lu Ran had thought, by inertia, nurturing a Heavenly Realm Stone Sculpture to upgrade a level would require ten thousand strands of Holy Spirit Energy.

After all, improving a River Realm Stone Sculpture by a small rank requires a hundred strands of Holy Spirit Energy, while a Sea Realm Stone Sculpture requires a thousand strands for the same.

But Lu Ran was wrong.

On the eve of returning to Holy Spirit Mountain, he sought confirmation from Lord Immortal Sheep.

The fact proved that Elder Bai Rao's speculation was correct: after reaching the Heavenly Realm, further advancement is not just a small rank progression.

The difference between the first level and second level of the Heavenly Realm is truly a Great Realm distinction!

However, Lord Immortal Sheep also said that the Heavenly Realm's resources are richer, which can accelerate Lu Ran's growth.

This growth refers to the Stone Sculptures under Lu Ran's command, those Ran Sect soldiers who fuse with Stone Sculptures can grow and strengthen themselves through plundering Holy Spirit Energy.

Although Lu Ran had reached the Heavenly Realm, he had not fused with a Stone Sculpture.

After all, the one he would fuse with...is Lord Immortal Sheep!

Lu Ran never mentioned this.

He didn't want Lord Immortal Sheep to go away, didn't want it to completely dissipate.

Lu Ran believed, and Lord Immortal Sheep almost tacitly acknowledged, that Lu Ran has the qualifications to follow in his mother's footsteps on her path to ascend.

Only at the very end, once Lu Ran truly reached the height where his mother stood, then Lord Immortal Sheep...

Lu Ran didn't want to think about it.

People are always slow to understand.

For instance, Lord Immortal Sheep expressed more than once to Lu Ran:

It will eventually dissipate.

Back then, Lu Ran would naively ask Lord Immortal Sheep, how could it not dissipate, how could it be saved.

It was only later he realized, the true culprit causing Lord Immortal Sheep to dissipate...

Was likely Lu Ran himself.

Now, growing wildly, Lu Ran realized he was a killer wielding a butcher's knife.

Every progress he made, brought him closer to the Immortal Sheep God Sculpture.

Lord Immortal Sheep just stood there, watching as the executioner approached step by step.

Waiting for the end to arrive.

...

Chapter 858: Ascension Tomorrow

The days passed by, and it was already the fourteenth of the lunar calendar.

On this night, in the spacious hall of Tianya Residence, Lu Ran sat dominantly on the Taishi chair at the head, with an air of authority.

Deng Yuxiang, Yu Changsheng, Yan Chou, among others, stood to the left and right below the hall; all could see that the Sect Master was ready!

Bai Rao leaned at Lu Ran's feet, occasionally looking up to gaze at the young man's solemn and dignified face.

The more she looked, the more satisfied she felt.

Little Master Lu truly exudes more and more of a leader's charisma.

In the past five or six days, Lu Ran had adjusted himself to peak condition!

Early tomorrow morning, he will ascend to the Heavenly Realm with the Nightmare Guardian.

Facing the new journey, Lu Ran felt both anticipation and nervousness, concealing his turbulent emotions with a serious face.

His gaze swept over Yan Chou, then looked at the enchanting woman clinging to his feet: "I am ascending to the Heavenly Realm tomorrow, do any of you have any special advice?"

"Young Master!" Yan Chou immediately said, "Let this servant accompany you."

"Indeed, Little Master Lu," Bai Rao said in a pitiful manner, "The Heavenly Realm is perilous, going alone would leave this humble servant in constant worry."

Deng Yuxiang: "..."

Am I not a person?

Isn't the From Dragon Guardian, Luoshen, just for show?

These two Pseudo God Stones, united with the God Demon, stand in Lu Ran's Sculpture Garden, ready to be summoned for battle at any time.

"It's not that I don't trust you, but once you return to the Heavenly Realm, you will surely face questioning by the Gods and Demons." Lu Ran said in a deep voice.

Bai Rao, Yan Chou, and even Elder Tufeng's identities were special, all executioners entering the mountain with missions.

After returning to the Heavenly Realm, naturally, they are to report back.

The Gods and Demons cannot query the memories of human believers' minds.

But no one can ensure, under the questioning of the Gods and Demons, whether the executioners' demeanor and lies will be impeccable.

"Little Lu, the Heavenly Realm is not as vast as the Holy Spirit Mountain Realm, but it isn't small either, only certain special areas allow communication with Gods and Demons."

Bai Rao said softly, crawling slowly up to the armrest of the Taishi chair.

"Why does Aunt Bai skirt around the issue? I know that after ascending to the Heavenly Realm, we have a high probability of being directly teleported near the Divine Mountain."

Lu Ran said, pressing a hand on her head to stop her from getting closer.

"Oh~ Little Lu!" Bai Rao sulked, "Even if this humble servant is interrogated, I won't show any flaws.

This humble servant knows how to lie~"

"I will take you to the Heavenly Realm." Lu Ran said sternly, "Provided we ensure our safety."

The Heavenly Realm Battlefield, to be precise, the "First Layer of Heaven," also has weak contact with the Gods.

But in certain special areas, in those regions known as "Divine Mountains," believers can communicate with Gods and Demons!

Although the communication is still laborious, it's real-time conveyance.

Lu Ran's hand, upon Bai Rao's head, gently patted: "Don't rush, listen."

Bai Rao's expression was slightly dazed.

The young man before her, with his solemn demeanor, had softened his gaze and even his tone became much gentler.

Bai Rao couldn't help but blame inwardly, you wretch!

Solemn and dignified to such an extent, allowing no challenge, yet when gentle, it is even more overwhelming, making one unable to resist...

Truly, a charming demon!

Tsk, poor Ran Sect soldiers, must have been troubled by you greatly.

"So, do any of you have any special advice?" Lu Ran held down the restless enchanting serpent as he continued to ask.

Yan Chou, seeing the Young Master's decision, put aside his thoughts and said solemnly:

"After the Young Master's ascension, when encountering Evil Demon henchmen or human believers, a cautious heart is necessary, but fundamentally everyone's identity changes."

Lu Ran nodded silently.

In Holy Spirit Mountain, when people saw believers from other sects, they would draw their swords immediately!

Encountering the Evil Demon Clan, they would fight to the death.

However, on the Heavenly Realm Battlefield, humans and Evil Demons all became comrades fighting side by side!

Because they have a common enemy.

Lu Ran had yet to witness that scenario.

But just thinking about it felt ironic!

"Young Master, your mother's former Cloud Sea subordinates are mostly scattered near various Divine Mountains." Yan Chou said in a deep voice, "Holding the Cloud Sea Dust Clear Sword, you will command them all.

However, the Young Master should also be aware that those Cloud Sea's former subordinates near the Divine Mountain will also be monitored by the relevant Gods and Demons, so..."

Lu Ran nodded silently.

"Little Lu." Bai Rao suddenly spoke.

"Hmm?"

"Near the Divine Mountain, you must pay attention to your actions." Bai Rao raised her eyes to look at the young man.

Lu Ran already knew what she wanted to say.

Bai Rao meticulously advised: "If you want to perform skills from other sects or summon the Stone Sculpture in your mind, remember! You must keep away from the Divine Mountain."

Lu Ran nodded emphatically: "I and the Nightmare Guardian will strive to only exhibit skills from the Immortal Sheep Sect.

If it comes to a critical point, I will ensure to stay away from the Divine Mountain, and ensure every creature that witnesses my special abilities dies by my blade, devoured completely!"

"That's right~" Bai Rao smiled alluringly, satisfied as she looked at Lu Ran.

Lu Ran's eyes flickered, continuing: "Anyway, the external enemies of the Heavenly Realm can devour dead souls, perpetually competing with both Gods and Demons for the Origin Energy."

When returning to the Human World earlier, Lu Ran had inquired of Lord Immortal Sheep regarding the matter of having the Heavenly Realm's executioners change allegiances.

Lord Immortal Sheep had clearly stated that it was not yet the time.

Lu Ran should wait until ascending to the Heavenly Realm and decide based on the specific circumstances.

It seems that Lord Immortal Sheep wants Lu Ran to comprehend and judge it himself, possibly using the external enemy as cover, allowing those executioners who joined Ran Sect to pledge allegiance under Lu Ran in the heavenly realm.

"Young Master, shall I tell you more about the external enemy?" Yan Chou cautiously inquired, afraid that the Young Master might be impatient.

After all, Lu Ran already had a thorough understanding of the abilities, characteristics, and other details of those mysterious entities.

"Go ahead, Big Nightmare and I will listen." Lu Ran accepted the offer without refusal.

In the hall, the torches were burning, and the firelight flickered.

This meeting before the journey continued until late at night, and only then did everyone disperse.

Lu Ran sat alone in the Taishi Chair, organizing all intelligence information regarding the Heavenly Realm, one hand supporting his forehead, continuously rubbing his temples.

Suddenly, a wave of Divine Power rippled beside him.

"Hmm?" Lu Ran turned his head to see the figure of Yan Shuangzi.

"Master, I..." Yan Shuangzi slightly raised her hands.

"Thank you." Lu Ran leaned his body sideways, resting his elbow on the armrest.

The hall was silent, with only the crackling sound of burning torches.

After a long while, Lu Ran softly said, "Once I leave, you will follow the Lady."

"Okay." Yan Shuangzi gently rubbed Lu Ran's temples with her fingertips, her gaze somewhat dim.

Everything she encountered upon first entering the Mountain Realm caused a slight delay on her path of cultivation.

A small step behind leads to being behind in every step!

Now, Yan Shuangzi could only watch Lu Ran and Deng Yuxiang join forces to ascend to the heavenly realm while she remained in the mountains, cultivating arduously.

For someone from the Sea Realm to join the battle among Heavenly Realm's Great Powers would undoubtedly be unwise!

Even if Yan Shuangzi could come and go without a trace, Lu Ran would never let her fall into danger.

"You have already reached the fourth rank in the Sea Realm; it won't be long before you can advance to the Heavenly Realm." Lu Ran, sensing her disappointment, softly reassured her, "When the time comes, I will come back to get you."

"Yes." Yan Shuangzi responded softly.

Lu Ran shifted the topic: "It seems like you have acquired something?"

"The Wind Emperor visited while the Master was having a meeting. She left the Tiger Talisman for me to deliver." Yan Shuangzi said while taking out half of the Tiger Talisman.

"Did she say anything?" Lu Ran casually took the left half of the Tiger Talisman.

"The Wind Emperor said that the two halves of the Tiger Talisman must unite to unleash their true effect." Yan Shuangzi conveyed, "She also said..."

"What?"

"She said the Master of Ran Sect is the ruler of the Mountain Realm and wherever he goes, he should also be the ruler of that land!"

"Haha." Lu Ran chuckled, indeed, something He Qifeng would say.

Lu Ran looked at the obedient black jade Tiger Talisman in his palm, clearly, it had been convinced by its former owner, coming here to acknowledge a new master.

Naturally, He Qifeng could convince the Tiger Talisman, also because Lu Ran had the qualifications.

He already possessed the right half of the Tiger Talisman and was a Heavenly Realm Great Power, with status and raw strength above He Qifeng.

Lu Ran slowly raised his hand to his neck.

"Snap~"

The two halves of the Tiger Talisman attracted each other seamlessly, combining into a complete small black tiger.

The union of two second-rank Magical Artifacts, although not reaching the third rank in strength, is nonetheless top-tier among second-rank artifacts.

The effect of the black jade Tiger Talisman is to bolster Lu Ran's aura based on his own grandeur.

Whether during this journey to the heavenly realm, the creatures living in the First Layer of Heaven can continue to hold their noble heads high upon witnessing Lu Ran, remains to be seen.

Thank you, Qifeng.

Lu Ran lightly grasped the Tiger Talisman and tucked it into his collar.

I shall first go above to expand territories.

I await your arrival!

"That's all. You may leave. I will go speak with the Lady." Lu Ran rose and walked toward the bedroom.

Yan Shuangzi gave a light nod, her figure flickering and disappearing.

The Sect Master and the Lady have a separate seclusion room located directly below the bedroom.

Lu Ran arrived at the bedroom corner and proceeded underground through a tunnel.

In the pitch-black seclusion room, without waiting for anyone to speak, Jiang Ruyi already sensed the presence of a terrifying entity at the tunnel entrance.

"Lu Ran?"

"I'm interrupting your cultivation." Lu Ran spoke gently as he approached the girl.

"Is it... time already?" Jiang Ruyi glanced at the young man under the soft glow of the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd.

"Tomorrow is the fifteenth; I'll leave in the morning."

"Oh." Jiang Ruyi pressed her lips, raising the Treasure Gourd in one hand, "Blazing Phoenix for you."

Little Blazing Phoenix floated happily, yet her master's hand bypassed it.

Lu Ran leaned down, one hand supporting her back, the other hand passing through her leg bend, and lifted her horizontally: "Don't cultivate tonight, keep me company."

"Alright." Jiang Ruyi shed her cold exterior, her arms tightly wrapping around Lu Ran, her face buried deep into his neck.

He hasn't left yet.

Yet her yearning has already filled the entire seclusion room.

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Chapter 859: Heavenly Realm · First Layer of Heaven!

At the break of dawn.

In the bedroom of Tianya Residence, a rustling sound could be heard.

Lu Ran stood in front of the wardrobe, clad in bamboo hat and bamboo clothes, transforming back into a mysterious hero of the rivers and lakes.

He donned the Blood Crystal Mask, covering the lower half of his face, making his entire presence even more enigmatic.

Lu Ran slowly turned his head, gazing toward the bed.

Jiang Ruyi lay on her side, deep in slumber, with a thin blanket draped at her waist, outlining a beautiful curve of her body and leaving him her silhouette.

The room was silent.

The Immortal jasmine tree exuded a faint jasmine fragrance, swirling through the skylight and lingering in the room, as if silently urging him to stay.

Lu Ran stared at his fiancée, lingering for a long time, before quietly turning away.

As his figure disappeared behind the screen, the seemingly sweetly sleeping girl on the bed quietly opened her eyes.

There was none of the initial grogginess from awakening, only the sorrow of parting in her gaze.

Slowly, Jiang Ruyi pulled the corner of the blanket over her head.

In the pitch-black blanket, one hand fell on the red bean bracelet on her wrist, her fingertips gently caressing the small red bean.

Now, she could break through at any time, entering the Sea Realm Peak.

But even if she advanced now, the breakthrough process would take 5 to 10 days.

Jiang Ruyi did not think there would be any problem with her Dao Heart, but even under the best circumstances, after entering the peak stage and seamlessly advancing to the Heavenly Realm, it would still take close to a month to break through.

So very long...

In the darkness, Jiang Ruyi slowly curled up her legs, her whole body curling into a ball.

In the hall, Lu Ran stood quietly with an Ancient Bronze Mirror in his hand.

"Shall we go?" Deng Yuxiang gently reminded him, as Lu Ran's movements had been frozen for several seconds.

She was also dressed in green bamboo clothes and a bamboo hat, her long black hair like a waterfall flowing down her back.

The smoky green yarn interwoven among it, like the flowing morning mist, dreamy and surreal.

"Hmm, let's go." The oval Ancient Bronze Mirror in Lu Ran's hand transformed into a Landing Mirror.

Deng Yuxiang immediately strode in with her long legs.

Lu Ran slightly turned his head, taking one last deep look in the direction of the bedroom under the brim of his hat before burying his head and walking into the mirror.

With just one step, he arrived at Mo Gu Peak.

"There shouldn't be anyone." Deng Yuxiang stood at the top of the peak, her gaze sweeping over a desolate scene.

She raised her eyes to the sky.

Not a cloud in the sky, as if there were no constraints.

But everyone in the mountains knew, an invisible cage always existed, blocking the lower realm people from escape.

"You'd better enter the gourd first, so we don't get separated." Lu Ran raised a hand, and the Blazing Phoenix Patterned Gourd at his waist immediately flew out and landed in his palm.

The executioners made it clear: upon ascending to the Heavenly Realm, living ones are not necessarily transported anywhere.

Only the Dead Souls left behind by the Human Clan and Evil Demons would be tightly held by contract threads, flying into the Heavenly Realm and reaching the appropriate Divine Mountain area.

"Call me out at the first moment." Deng Yuxiang reminded.

The little Blazing Phoenix immediately chanted a spell, sucking the Big Nightmare into the small gourd mouth.

Lu Ran carefully checked his equipment over again.

A Divine Power Bead Chain on his neck: 28 Sea Grade Divine Power Pearls the size of pigeon eggs; a small Divine Power Bead Strings at his right ankle: 8 River Grade Divine Power Pearls the size of quail eggs.

First Rank Silent Night Blade, Second Rank Dawn Blade, Third Rank Eight Desolates Annihilation Blade.

Cloud Sea Dust Clear Blade and Sword, respectively First Rank and Third Rank.

Additionally, there were two pieces combined into one as a Second-rank Magical Artifact·Ink Jade Tiger Talisman, and one Third-rank Magical Artifact·Blazing Phoenix Patterned Gourd.

This was all of Lu Ran's possessions.

Hmm... maybe not quite, he had fought in the Holy Spirit Mountain Realm and acquired many Divine Weapons and Magic Artifacts, most of which he distributed to his subordinates.

The Divine Weapons and Magic Artifacts of the Ran Sect's warriors naturally belonged to Lu Ran.

After all, even the people themselves belonged to Lu Ran.

"Heh..." Lu Ran let out a deep breath, taking another look at the world's end.

In the distant east, a red sun slowly rose, casting fierce morning rays.

Shining upon the vast, desolate Great Desert, fierce and magnificent.

Quite fitting for the scene.

"Whoosh~" Lu Ran gently floated upward, watching the mountain peak beneath his feet grow more distant.

Mo Gu Peak had long collapsed, yet it was still much taller than the average mountain, and Lu Ran had not ascended for long before sensing something amiss.

It was a very peculiar feeling.

As if some presence was inspecting his body, not a living being, neither benevolent nor malevolent.

More like... a rule?

Lu Ran raised his head to the azure sky, continuing to fly upward.

"Hmm." Suddenly he grunted, feeling a moment of suffocation in his previously normal breathing.

Horrifying energy vast as the sea seemed to drown him within.

"Hoo!!"

Lu Ran immediately accelerated, straining to sprint upward.

second, 2 seconds, 3 seconds...

Suddenly, Lu Ran felt a lightness in his body, and everything before his eyes completely changed.

He hastened to stop his ascent, suspending mid-air.

The sky had entirely darkened.

The Cloud Sea in the sky reappeared.

The exceedingly rich Divine Power environment clearly informing Lu Ran that he had arrived in another world!

"So this is the Heavenly Realm..."

Lu Ran murmured to himself, quickly surveying the scene, finding neither sign of the rising sun nor the desolate desert.

As he gazed around, mountains shrouded in mist, he felt a bit disoriented.

"This place seems like Hidden Thousand Mountains..."

Lu Ran landed on a mountain peak, looking at the sea of mist below, with one sharp peak after another emerging.

Boats sail across the misty sea, with sails competing against each other.

Is there a difference from the Qiānshān of the Seven Views of the Holy Spirit?

Yes!

Lu Ran lightly leaped down from the peak.

Strangely, he did not fall into the sea of mist.

When the mist submerged his waist, Lu Ran steadied his stance!

He half-knelt down, feeling a surge of energy in his eyes, then opened a pair of bird-like pupils.

Paper Kite Technique·Simurgh's Eyes!

These eyes were far superior to Lu Ran's own; the sharp bird-like pupils were capable of seeing through the mist.

During the past few days of preparation, Lu Ran carefully chose among several bird stone sculptures.

Blazing Phoenix Divine Sculpture, Witch Crow Divine Sculpture...

In the end, he chose the Paper Kite Evil Sculpture because the reserve of dead souls was more abundant!

Previously, Lu Ran fought north and south in the Holy Spirit Mountain Realm, waging war for two months, and even rampaged in the Paper Kite Clan's base camp, Thousand Paper Abyss.

As expected, when he activated the Evil Sculpture·Paper Kite, the sculpture swiftly expanded its parameters until it reached the terrifying Heavenly Realm, then stabilized.

Lu Ran chose this elegant Evil Sculpture with a fragmented beauty precisely to clearly see his surroundings in the Heavenly Realm.

But a problem arose!

Lu Ran was able to see through the surrounding mist and saw the peaks submerged in the sea of mist from all directions.

Yet he couldn't see beneath his feet.

Below was not solid ground.

Lu Ran seemed to be standing on mist, or rather, on an invisible energy.

The ground below was a chaotic blur.

No light nor darkness, no solid form; in Lu Ran's eyes, it was all a haze.

He even had a creepy sensation!

Afraid that from the blurred depths below, some terrifying creature might suddenly spring forth...

[Little Lu Ran.] A familiar female voice echoed in his mind.

[Oh.] Lu Ran leaped back onto the peak behind him, holding the Blazing Phoenix Patterned Gourd, and summoned Deng Yuxiang out.

Deng Yuxiang stood firmly on the peak, quickly surveying the surroundings.

Instantly, her eyes showed a trace of bewilderment.

Even though the executioners of the Heavenly Realm had described the situation here, standing in the midst of it, she was still shaken to her core.

The sea of mist surging beneath.

The sea of clouds enveloping above.

Between the cloud sea and the mist sea, countless connected peaks stretched endlessly to the edge of sight.

Lu Ran and Deng Yuxiang were so insignificant, standing atop an unremarkable peak, once again confined within a realm of its own.

The two quietly observed, speechless for a long time.

This profound shock stemmed from the mysterious vast domain and the deep-seated feeling of insignificance and smallness within one's heart.

After a long while, Deng Yuxiang broke the silence: "Looks like we weren't transported directly near the Divine Mountain..."

Before she could finish, an earth-shattering sound suddenly erupted from above.

"Rumble!!"

"Hiss..." Lu Ran inhaled sharply, covering his ears.

Deng Yuxiang also showed a grimace, covering her ears; as Night Charm in the flesh, her hearing was on par with Lu Ran's.

Compared to the Mountain Realm, the sounds heard here were even more deafening, shaking Lu Ran's mind with pain.

Deng Yuxiang looked up in anger towards the sky.

Unfortunately, the thick cloud sea obscured everything.

The executioners had said that within the Divine Mountain region, believers could glimpse the Upper Realm by peering over the towering Mountain Stone Wall.

That's why Senior Bai Rao divided the beings' strength into the First Heaven, Second Heaven, and Third Heaven.

The specific criteria originated from the region.

Generally, only when your strength improved would you be summoned by the God to ascend to a higher sky.

"Whew~"

A luminescent white light emanated between Lu Ran's hands.

Like beautiful moonlight.

Ghost Moon Fox Evil Technique·Moonlight Fox!

This was a healing skill, both stealthy and handy.

A high-grade evil technique providing greater operability, Lu Ran didn't need to illuminate his entire body with moonlight, just his palms to emit the healing glow.

"Sis." Lu Ran approached Deng Yuxiang, extended his hand, and replaced her hands covering her ears with his own fingers passing through.

Deng Yuxiang did not reject Lu Ran's goodwill, silently feeling a life force flowing into her, healing everything, nurturing her soul.

The Heavenly Grade healing techniques are truly extraordinary!

So stealthy, yet with such terrifying healing effects.

If Lu Ran wished, he could even sweep across his body wounds unnoticed, healing them all instantly.

"Someone's here!" Deng Yuxiang suddenly turned her gaze, eyes passing beside Lu Ran's head, looking behind him.

"Hmm?" Lu Ran immediately glanced back, instantly focusing his gaze.

On a distant peak, a luminescent white figure appeared.

It... she resembled a jade sculpture.

That of sheepskin white jade.

The jade sculpture of considerable size, towering, with long luminescent white hair and jade-like robes, fluttered gently in the wind.

A blurry face turned slowly, as if searching for something.

In the dim world, she radiated a peculiar glow throughout.

Even somewhat... sacred?

It's truly hard to imagine that such an image and temperament from a jade sculpture is considered an external enemy...

Chapter 860: Faceless Jade Venerable

"Faceless Jade Venerable."

Lu Ran murmured, as the distant white jade statue was clearly the foreign enemy mentioned by the executioners.

In the God Demon Series, there was no such existence.

[Let's hide first, focus on gathering intelligence, and try not to clash with her.] Deng Yuxiang sent a voice transmission, grabbing the back of Lu Ran's collar, already leaping backward with him.

"Ugh~" Lu Ran only felt like a little tabby cat, being grabbed by the scruff of the neck.

The two landed behind the mountain peak, with Lu Ran clinging to the edge of the stone peak, slightly poking his head out.

Secretly observing.JPG.

[Did she discover us?] Deng Yuxiang asked.

The distance between them was too far, and the light in the Heavenly Realm was rather dim, making it difficult for Deng Yuxiang to judge accurately.

Lu Ran, however, was able to observe the other party clearly, but even he was somewhat unsure.

The face of the Faceless Jade Venerable was already a bit hazy, and her eyes were in a half-open and half-closed state, leaving Lu Ran perplexed.

[It seems not; she turned to face elsewhere. She... she seems to have discovered something.] Lu Ran frowned slightly.

On the distant mountain peak, the Faceless Jade Venerable suddenly took flight, shooting straight towards an inconspicuous mountain peak.

That loose robe, though looking like white jade in texture, fluttered as lightly as normal clothing.

It truly broadened Lu Ran's horizons.

That clothing... and the body of the Faceless Jade Venerable, what material are they made of?

The next moment, Lu Ran's eyes focused!

At the instant the Faceless Jade Venerable flew towards the mountain peak, the stone peak beneath her feet was quickly dyed a lustrous white.

The Da Xia has a saying: turning stone into gold.

But for the Faceless Jade Venerable, it was "turning stone into jade"!

The originally ordinary stones, touched by her toes, instantly escalated in value, swiftly transforming into white jade stone.

Moreover, the range of the jade rock continued to expand.

If she stood a while longer, perhaps the entire mountain peak could turn into a white jade peak.

Only, the Faceless Jade Venerable did not linger, flying again in the same direction.

"What a terrifying creature..."

Lu Ran felt a faint chill in his heart.

This must be the erosive power of the Faceless Jade Venerable as mentioned by the executioners, right?

Anything touched by the Faceless Jade Venerable's hands or feet would be entirely petrified!

Indeed, the white jade peak was lustrous and beautiful beyond measure, but this was essentially a kind of erosion.

The solemn warning from Yan Chou echoed in Lu Ran's ears: "When fighting the Faceless Jade Venerable, it's best to use ranged techniques continually. If forced into melee combat, be exceedingly wary of her hands and feet."

Her hands and feet must not be touched!

Petrification is merely the surface.

All sentient beings, their bodies petrified, would simultaneously have their minds rapidly eroded, and their consciousness utterly destroyed.

Upon first hearing this intel, Lu Ran couldn't help but click his tongue silently.

They all say the Evil Demon-Tangled Silk Shadow was poisoned entirely.

The Faceless Jade Venerable is no less fearsome!

[I know what she's doing.] Lu Ran suddenly transmitted.

[Hmm?] Deng Yuxiang leaned against the stone peak, keeping a watchful eye on the rear.

[She's pursuing an enemy, and the target seems to be invisible.] Lu Ran squinted his eyes, scanning the countless stone peaks in the direction the Faceless Jade Venerable was flying.

The sea of fog drifting between peaks was flowing in the same direction.

With his excellent eyesight, Lu Ran happened to spot an anomaly in the fog sea beside a stone peak, obviously stirred by something.

Even from such a distance, Lu Ran could see clearly; naturally, the Faceless Jade Venerable had noticed too.

"Hoo~"

Under the dim sky, the lustrous white jade sculpture gleamed with a miraculous luster, robes fluttering, the flying speed suddenly increased.

"Boom!"

The Faceless Jade Venerable launched herself against a mountain peak, and in an instant, gravel splattered in all directions.

[The invisible being has been discovered.] Lu Ran's heart grew heavy.

He clearly saw, in an area of the fog sea, strands of mist were raised high, delineating the traces of an invisible being leaping.

What on earth is it?

Why is its size so large?

With a little thought, Lu Ran had an answer: Ghost Moon Fox!

Indeed, the Ghost Moon Fox Clan could turn invisible and possessed seven long tails, thus making the mist form such shapes.

Sure enough, within seconds, Lu Ran heard the sound of a fox's cry!

"Woo~~~"

A gigantic Ghost Moon Fox suddenly appeared on a mountain peak.

Its body length reached an astounding 10 meters! The seven long fox tails behind it were equivalent in length.

Its entire body was covered in pure white fur, whiter than frost or snow, displaying a different kind of white from the Faceless Jade Venerable.

Its enormous fox eyes were filled with pleading, and what should have been a melodious fox cry sounded pitifully plaintive.

The Faceless Jade Venerable remained unmoved.

She raised a jade hand, pointing to her feet.

And beneath her, the stone peak was visibly eroding and turning into an exquisite white jade stone peak.

"Woo~"

The Ghost Moon Fox whimpered softly, lying flat on the ground, pitifully begging for mercy.

The beautiful white fox, hard-lived become like a puppy, with seven long tails splayed in the air, constantly swaying left and right.

It was clearly not trying to intimidate the enemy, but flatter and beg.

second, 2 seconds, 3 seconds...

The Faceless Jade Venerable suddenly flew forward.

"Ying!" The Ghost Moon Fox squealed, leaping backward at high speed.

To the fox's body, a phantom suddenly unfolded.

Caster!

This phantom was not like Yu Changsheng's type, capable of fully representing the original divine demon remnant shadow.

In essence, this was a minion of deity.

It required a specific group's physical body as transportation, such as disciples, or in particular, Evil Demon Clan minions sharing the same energy source, two sides of one body.

In other words, this phantom could not exist independently!

After the separation of god and demon, the demon side gained the ability to create flesh minions to facilitate the monthly fifteenth invasion of the Human World.

The deity side could also summon minions, but only in phantom form.

In the Human World, the Great Powers of the Sea Realm can summon a phantom of God to inhabit themselves, essentially inviting a lackey of God.

And now, Lu Ran saw with his own eyes the so-called "god-and-demon collaboration"!

The enormous Ghost Moon Fox on the battlefield was undoubtedly a Heavenly Realm Evil Demon lackey, while on the White Fox, a Heavenly Realm God lackey existed.

"Hoo!"

The massive shadow of the Caster formed a strange seal with his aged hands.

In an instant, a series of phantom characters "loop" flew out, directly towards the Faceless Jade Venerable.

Divine Technique-Tightening Spell!

This technique primarily delivers physical damage. Once it encircles the enemy, it can crush the enemy's body.

Poor Caster's shadow, this was the only skill he could use to try and attack his opponent.

The Caster's sect is fundamentally a support branch, capable of calming the mind, foreseeing crises, and concealing one's form.

The few combat skills: one being the Tightening Spell and the other the Heart Disruption Curse to confuse the enemy's mind.

However, the Heart Disruption Curse from the Caster's sect, like the highly threatening Evil Technique-Chasing Moon Eyes of the Ghost Moon Fox Clan, was ineffective against the Faceless Jade Venerable.

The Jade Venerable is faceless... and heartless!

She is immune to all spiritual techniques.

To truly harm her, one must confront her head-on!

"Woo~~~" While the Caster's shadow cast spells, the Ghost Moon Fox was fleeing swiftly with both feet and tail.

"Crack!"

The Faceless Jade Venerable's eyes were half-closed, unafraid of that loop of characters.

Her forward-charging posture was extremely oppressive; her jade hand reached forward, smashing through the series of characters, her flying speed increasingly faster.

Lu Ran widened his eyes!

This... this?!

The Ghost Moon Fox Clan was naturally swift and agile.

Yet the escape speed of this Heavenly Realm Ghost Moon Fox was no match for the flight speed of the Faceless Jade Venerable?!

If speed is insufficient, agility makes up for it.

The Ghost Moon Fox whimpered pleadingly, constantly darting and changing escape directions, trying to shake off the Faceless Jade Venerable.

However, the distance between them continued to close in infinitely.

"Swish~"

The figure of the Ghost Moon Fox vanished again, even its presence concealed.

Yet the terrain limited it!

The sea of fog that swirled among the peaks betrayed the Ghost Moon Fox's whereabouts.

[How is it?] Deng Yuxiang placed a hand on Lu Ran's shoulder.

[It's over.] Lu Ran slowly shook his head, [Both lackeys should be Heavenly Realm, but they're completely incapable of dealing with each other.]

Deng Yuxiang's heart was heavy: [How are Faceless Jade Venerable's combat techniques?]

[They're still chasing, Haven't seen Faceless Jade Venerable's specific skills... caught it!] Lu Ran's heart tightened.

He saw the Faceless Jade Venerable standing in the sea of fog, a giant hand evidently grabbing something.

It was a fox's tail!

The invisible snowy white fox tail had been corroded and polluted into a jade-like texture, no longer invisible.

"Woo~~~" The Ghost Moon Fox wailed, not daring to use other tails to strike the enemy, only beating its own tail.

Cutting the tail to survive?

Decisive indeed!

However, the Faceless Jade Venerable's combat speed was extremely fast. As she yanked backward on the fox's tail, the entire person flew forward, heavily stepping on the Ghost Moon Fox.

"Huh..."

The sea of fog churned.

Faceless Jade Venerable's robes fluttered, standing steadily within.

"Ying! Ying..." The Ghost Moon Fox's eyes were full of despair, desperately struggling.

But it was stepped on the neck by the Faceless Jade Venerable, utterly unable to escape.

The Ghost Moon Fox couldn't care about much else; its tails violently whipped at the Faceless Jade Venerable, yet unable to harm her at all.

Lu Ran was shocked!

The Ghost Moon Fox indeed wasn't known for strength, but each tail was glowing with a beautiful moonlight, clearly the Evil Technique·Flowing Light Moon Tail!

At this life-and-death moment, Lu Ran was sure it was using a Heavenly Grade Evil Technique!

But there wasn't the slightest crack on the Faceless Jade Venerable.

Her body didn't even quiver slightly, utterly immovable!

Even Lu Ran from far away could feel the intense oppression!

It's hard to imagine how despairing the Ghost Moon Fox must be.

"Woo..." The fox clan's cries grew ever weaker, the waving snowy white tails finally turned into a jade-like texture, completely frozen.

The entire white fox was corroded, turned into a white jade fox sculpture.

Without the Ghost Moon Fox's body, the Caster's shadow instantly vanished.

Lu Ran immediately opened his Pupil of the Dead World, witnessing the disappearance and the soul of the Caster lackey.

He also saw the Faceless Jade Venerable, one hand brushing through the pure white jade-like long hair.

The strands penetrated through the souls of both the Caster and Ghost Moon Fox lackeys, absorbing them all.

"Crack!"

The sound of shattering resounded.

The Faceless Jade Venerable stepped on the corpse, applying slight force, crushing the "Ghost Moon Fox Jade Sculpture" completely.

Jade powder sparkled with strange luster, dancing like fireflies, all merging into her white jade body.

In mere seconds, everything vanished into smoke.

From bones to souls, none escaped the fate of being entirely devoured.

The Faceless Jade Venerable remained expressionless, just lightly dusting her sleeve.

[The Caster sect has the Heart Sense Curse, the Ghost Moon Fox Clan has the Bright Moon Fox Heart, how did it come to this?] Deng Yuxiang's telepathic message fell into Lu Ran's mind.

Lu Ran did not respond, but he seemed to know the answer.

In the far-off sea of fog, the Faceless Jade Venerable slowly turned her head, looking this way.

Lu Ran's heart sank.

Had the opponent... discovered them long ago?

The Faceless Jade Venerable's robes fluttered, flying slowly towards the small, hidden Human Clan behind the Stone Peak.

Lu Ran: !!!

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