

Old Gods 871

Chapter 871: The Terrifying Sculpture Garden

The three Heavenly Realm Dead Souls were all collected by Lu Ran into the Sculpture Garden and also completely absorbed by the Big Nightmare.

According to calculations, one Heavenly Realm Dead Soul is approximately equal to 100 strands of Holy Spirit Energy.

By this calculation, Lu Ran only needs to slay a thousand Heavenly Realm God Demon minions and Faceless Jade Venerables to gather enough Holy Spirit Energy to elevate Deng Yuxiang.

A thousand?

No, in actual operation, the number of enemies Lu Ran needs to slay must be far less than this number.

Because the Faceless Jade Venerables are also devouring Dead Souls!

The combat strength of this clan is astonishing.

Right now, it seems like Lu Ran has only absorbed one Faceless Jade Venerable Dead Soul, yet little did anyone know that she might be carrying ten or a hundred lives on her back!

And these ten or hundred lives, before being devoured by the Faceless Jade Venerable, must have also collected Holy Spirit Energy.

It's a nesting doll effect~

So Lu Ran is quite sure that it won't be long before the Big Nightmare can be by her side again...

"Little Lu, you're amazing!"

As Lu Ran landed on Stone Peak, Bai Rao came over.

She wrapped one hand around his calf, her voice coquettish and ingratiating: "Such a fast blade, such a quick person...tsk~ truly delightful."

Lu Ran: "..."

Just praising the speed of the blade is enough.

No need to involve me...

Yan Chou also appeared, praising: "Young Master, you truly have the style of your esteemed mother back then!"

"Stop flattering me." Lu Ran shook her head, with his mother's terrifying realm of strength, she could probably shatter a Faceless Jade Venerable with just a casual sword strike.

Yan Chou quickly said: "Young Master, this humble servant dares not deceive you..."

"Enough." Lu Ran raised a hand to stop, looking at the tall man, recalling his performance in battle.

Full of experience, adept at seizing opportunities.

More importantly, he followed orders without question!

Lu Ran was quite satisfied with the subordinates his mother left him.

However, in terms of output, Yan Chou was still lacking, clearly finding it difficult to break through the defense of the Faceless Jade Venerable.

It's said that disciples of Qiang Xiu/the Evil Spear Emperor need to unleash a powerful move, wielding a magnificent spear, to cause real damage to external enemies.

Hmm... it's indeed a bit troublesome.

Lu Ran pondered silently.

If output is insufficient, then let the Divine Weapon compensate!

His gaze fell on the long spear in Yan Chou's hand, and he spoke: "It's time to find you a handy weapon, preferably with a strong Divine Weapon Domain."

Unknown to him, why Yan Chou ended up this way.

When Lu Ran first met him in the Mountain Realm, Yan Chou only had two treasures, and one of them was his mother's Cloud Sea Sword.

He only had a First Rank Magic Artifact, the Black Cloud Patterned Gourd.

The effect of this artifact was peculiar, capable of absorbing the energy of heaven and earth, self-brewing into a special "Divine Power Wine."

Drinking it would certainly replenish one's Divine Power, but the side effects were also obvious: drinking too much could lead to intoxication.

It's quite marvelous~

"Hmm..." Yan Chou was somewhat embarrassed, the intensity of the Heavenly Realm Battlefield was extremely high, and his Divine Weapon spear and sword had already perished in numerous battles.

The culprit was the Faceless Jade Venerable!

This clan is simply a nemesis to Divine Weapons.

Once Divine Weapons or Magic Artifacts are touched by the Faceless Jade Venerable, their composition changes immediately, and this kind of blow is undoubtably destructive to Divine Weapons and Magic Artifacts.

Once the vessel is damaged, the Artifact Spirit within has no foundation to exist, and naturally will vanish into smoke.

"That could definitely be a challenge~" Bai Rao rarely interjected, saying something fair, "Ordinary Divine Weapons cannot shatter those hard jade carvings."

"Indeed." Lu Ran nodded lightly.

If Divine Weapons were that effective, the Human Clan believers wouldn't be suppressed by external enemies so miserably.

Speaking of which, this battle let Lu Ran witness the enormous threat of the Star Official/Flashing Star Demon technique to the Faceless Jade Venerable!

In this light, the Star Official Divine Sculptures and Flashing Star Demon Evil Sculptures in the Sculpture Garden need careful selection of inheritors.

"By the way." Lu Ran looked into the distance, inquiring, "Among the former Cloud Sea members, are there any Star Official believers, Flashing Star Demon believers?"

Yan Chou immediately nodded: "Yes, but..."

"What?"

Yan Chou's eyes reflected a tinge of bitterness: "After your esteemed mother was forcibly removed from the Heavenly Realm, the former members were forcibly scattered by God Demon, stationed at various Divine Mountains.

Those Star Official disciples and Flashing Star Demon believers once present, it is unknown how many still survive."

Lu Ran remained silent.

Every mention of this matter filled his heart with anger and sorrow.

Yan Chou sensed the youth's low spirits, hesitated for a moment, and still said: "In the Cloud Sea Sect, there is a pair of siblings named Leng Tianxing and Leng Tianyue, both with remarkable combat abilities!

Tianxing bro has courage and caution, Tianyue sis is even more meticulous, they should be able to survive the calamity."

Calamity?

Lu Ran looked at Yan Chou, did he consider his mother's departure as a calamity?

Indeed, for those soldiers harboring infinite hope and following their leader for dominance, Qiao Wanjun's departure was akin to a collapse of heaven and earth.

The move by God Demon was truly ruthless!

Lu Ran remained silent for a while, then said: "You mentioned to me before, you were stationed at a Divine Mountain, where you once received a Cloud Sea old member, a Dong Ting disciple.

The conclusion of Cloud Sea Sect's destruction with less than ten percent remaining was also confirmed by him for you."

"Yes, in the years after Cloud Sea Sect was broken up, Huangfu took advantage of his own talents, moving through the Heavenly Realm, collecting Holy Spirit Energy, essentially visiting every Divine Mountain."

"Do you know where he is?"

"Young Master, back when Huangfu came and went in a hurry, he had tasks to execute for the Evil God, so he didn't have much time to rest. Our old Cloud Sea group was under heavy surveillance, and he didn't talk much with Chou Nu..."

Yan Chou's voice grew softer and eventually knelt down with his head bowed.

"Alright, let's go." Lu Ran sighed inwardly.

Most of the information Yan Chou acquired was from the scant words of that Dong Ting disciple, either learned or inferred.

Guarding the Divine Mountain continuously, he couldn't leave that particular area, and aside from Yan Chou, there was no other member of the old Cloud Sea group in the Divine Mountain.

"By the way." Lu Ran took a step forward and suddenly asked, "What is his name? Huangfu?"

"Chou Nu didn't know his name; in those days, Sect Master Qiao only called him by his surname, Huangfu."

"Oh." Lu Ran nodded.

It was uncertain if the elder Huangfu was still alive.

Regardless, the Dong Ting Divine Sculpture in the Sculpture Garden should be reserved for him.

Actually, Lu Ran had once fantasized beautifully: pulling Li Rouyin's own brother, a Believer of Wang Quan, into the Ran Sect to inherit a Stone Sculpture.

In this way, he could firmly bind Li Rouyin, this extremely special God disciple, to his chariot.

Sadly, heaven did not comply with his wishes.

Lu Ran fought tirelessly across Holy Spirit Mountain but never found any trace of Li Rouyin's brother.

Alas...

Next time he sees her, he really doesn't know how he'll explain.

"Go!" Lu Ran perked up, leaping off the Stone Peak, "The Big Nightmare feasted joyously just now, let's press on! Bring her out quickly!"

"Yes!" Yan Chou responded deeply.

Bai Rao disappeared into the thick sea of fog again, closely following at Lu Ran's heels.

Facts proved Lu Ran's predictions were accurate!

On this Heavenly Realm Battlefield, the ample resources he seized propelled the Big Nightmare's growth to an almost terrifying pace!

First, there was the descending Holy Spirit Energy.

Lu Ran often concealed his form, madly snatching resources, reaping wave after wave...

Of course, God Demon lackeys were also principal targets for Lu Ran's attacks.

The fattest ones had to be the Faceless Jade Venerables!

The quality of their Dead Souls was shockingly high!

Lu Ran and his group possessed an unmatched advantage, which was grounded in the nature of the Faceless Jade Venerables.

The word 'arrogance',

buried countless lofty jade sculptures.

The Faceless Jade Venerables kept swallowing setbacks, one after another...

Their excessively powerful combat abilities, coupled with their arrogant dispositions, led them to favor lone action.

Lu Ran and his companions exploited this trait, continuously executing solitary kills on Faceless Jade Venerables, ensuring each Dead Soul was confined within the Sculpture Garden, unable to report back.

After more than twenty days, the core of the Faceless Jade Venerables remained oblivious to Lu Ran and his team's presence.

Neither did they know how strong Lu Ran and his team truly were!

Every Faceless Jade Venerable they encountered viewed the trio with unchanged demeanor.

As if looking at strangers.

Still regarding them as mere ants!

Lu Ran naturally spared no effort to maintain the situation.

Every minute and every second, he was on high alert, relying on his strong five senses and fog-penetrating abilities to tactically choose battlefields.

Strategically match opponents.

Occasionally, upon perceiving chaotic battle scenes with an abundance of God Demon lackeys and Faceless Jade Venerables, Lu Ran would observe from afar and swiftly lead his team to retreat.

What was a face?

He didn't know!

He never engaged in a battle without certainty...

Lu Ran didn't know how long he could disguise the truth, especially considering that the Faceless Jade Venerables he killed were real, factual beings!

He was also unsure if the loss of these couple hundred individuals would be classified as normal fluctuation or if the loss of God Demon lackeys would draw special attention from the Divine Demon.

All in all, under Lu Ran's life principle of "recklessly kill, quietly escape", come late October, his brain started vibrating intensely!

The Nightmare Stone Sculpture was about to ascend to the second level of the Heavenly Realm!

By full calculation, it took less than a month.

What did that mean?

The Big Nightmare's promotion from Fourth Rank Sea Realm to Sea Realm Peak had taken half a year...

Yet, her ascent from the first level to the second level of the Heaven Realm had drastically shortened time.

Lu Ran had always been psychologically prepared for this.

But until the moment the Nightmare Stone Sculpture genuinely vibrated, Lu Ran profoundly realized how terrifying Lord Immortal Sheep was!

This Sculpture Garden...

Unspeakably terrifying!

Under Lord Immortal Sheep's protection, the Camellia painstakingly cultivated by Lu Ran bloomed fiercely again!

Hmm... similar to his blooming heart.

Lu Ran didn't hesitate, promptly leading his team back to Holy Spirit Mountain.

Over the next few days, his mind wouldn't be clear, naturally avoiding forced combat.

After campaigning in Heavenly Realm for such a long period, he and the two Heavenly Generals indeed needed some rest.

To Lu Ran's great surprise, as he stepped into Heaven's Edge, stood a towering, sturdy figure right in front...

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Chapter 872: Returnee

"Ancestor Tu?" Lu Ran pinched the brim of the bamboo hat with his two fingers and slightly raised his eyes to look up.

"You're back, young Lu." Tu Feng looked at the valiant young man, then saw two straw-clad steel-faced men emerge from within the mirror.

"Ancestor Tu, enjoying the scenery here?" Lu Ran seemed to be in a good mood, joking.

"Waiting for you." Tu Feng's expression was solemn.

Lu Ran nodded thoughtfully, then turned and said, "You two go rest."

"Yes."

The two Heavenly Generals departed in succession.

At Heaven's Edge, no one else was present, Tu Feng spoke again: "Young Lu, was this trip to the Heavenly Realm smooth for you?"

"Very smooth."

"Oh?" Tu Feng couldn't help but feel surprised, although he hadn't interacted much with Lu Ran, he understood that this was a very reliable young man.

Smooth we can understand.

Very smooth?

Does this mean young Lu is already able to roam the Heavenly Realm Battlefield with his two Executioners?

Lu Ran didn't respond again, instead, observing the solemn-faced Great Martial Monk, he asked: "Ancestor Tu, did you wait for me here on purpose?"

Tu Feng came back to his senses and said gravely: "The Divine called me back."

"Ah?" Lu Ran was somewhat stunned. "Ancestor Tu, while in the Mountain Realm, can you receive sound transmissions from the Martial Monk?"

"No." Tu Feng shook his head immediately, explaining, "It's just that in the past few days, I cannot perform spells."

Lu Ran understood in his heart.

Evidently, this is the Divine Monk conveying a message to the disciple.

Think about it, Tu Feng has descended upon Holy Spirit Mountain for several months now, such a Heavenly Realm disciple naturally should return to toil rather than enjoy leisure in the Mountain Realm.

Lu Ran pondered for a while, then said: "Then why don't we fulfill his elder wish and return to the Heavenly Realm?"

Tu Feng remained silent, waiting for more to be said.

Sure enough, Lu Ran looked up again: "Ancestor Tu, any favored Stone Sculpture?"

Tu Feng's expression did not change, but his naturally drooping right hand did slightly tighten.

Who could remain indifferent in the face of an invitation to become a god?

Lu Ran pretended not to see anything, continued: "Ancestor Tu knows, my Martial Monk Stone Sculpture is already bound to He Qifeng, you joining my Ran Sect, cannot be a Martial Monk disciple anymore. Unless..."

"Unless?"

"Unless you go to venerate He Qifeng as a Martial Monk believer. But if you do that, you'll not only lose ranks but also the identity of Stone Sculpture Inheritor."

As Lu Ran's words fell, he shook his head: "So, Ancestor Tu, just tell me if there's a Stone Sculpture you have in mind."

Lu Ran has always remembered the debt of gratitude from Ran Sect to Tu Feng.

If he hadn't specially looked for He Qifeng, informed about the God Demon Sect Executioners attack, the forces of Ran Sect scattered all over Holy Spirit Mountain couldn't have retreated so fast.

Each destroyed sect informed Lu Ran of narrowly escaping a catastrophe!

Once Tu Feng knew Lu Ran's abilities, he even diligently guarded his surroundings, whether redeeming past mistakes or resisting the Divine, he was a fellow traveler!

"Young Lu... Sect Leader." Tu Feng knelt on one knee, changed his title, and slowly bowed his head: "Everything will follow the Sect Leader's arrangements."

Lu Ran opened his mouth but swallowed back his words.

After all, many Divine Sculptures and Evil Sculptures in the Sculpture Garden already belonged to others. If Tu Feng requested Qiang Xiu or something like North Wind, Lu Ran wouldn't have the capacity to provide.

"Whew~"

A sea breeze blew by, brushing against Lu Ran's clothes.

The place at Heaven's Edge was silent, with one standing and one kneeling, the scene seemed frozen in time.

Tu Feng, this former Peak Master of Wuji Peak, a man who had weathered countless storms, felt somewhat anxious at this moment.

His fate and future path relied on the words Lu Ran was about to speak!

Lu Ran suddenly asked: "Ancestor Tu, what do you think of the combination of Prisoner Demon and Prison Sky Demon?"

"Prisoner Demon, Prison Sky Demon." Tu Feng muttered to himself, his mind immediately traversing the related skills of one god and one demon.

Lu Ran nodded: "Prisoner Demon possesses the Blood Fury Garb; in the future, Ancestor Tu will be able to fly."

Tu Feng was taken aback.

Then he recalled the battle above the Forbidden City.

Lu Ran had stolen his Xuanhuang Staff and taken his shoes off, leaving him to fall from the sky...

Thinking of this, Tu Feng couldn't help but laugh silently: "Haha."

Lu Ran laughed too, though his words were no longer in jest: "Peak Master Tu accustomed to being a Martial Monk believer, having Three Heads and Six Arms.

I cannot give you three heads, but I can offer you eight arms!"

Eight arms, huh?

Tu Feng restrained his smile, pondering quietly.

Lu Ran continued: "The Prisoner Demon-Prison Sky Demon combination, ferocious in close combat, the Prison Sky Clan can refine and absorb enemy Divine Power, bind the souls of the deceased.

This is a technique many God Demons do not have, and is the magical treasure for Ancestor Tu's growth after becoming a stone sculpture."

After battling in the Heavenly Realm, Lu Ran had enriched himself with many knowledge points.

Evil Technique-Prison Heaven Fire, can ignite black flames on chains.

At River Grade, this fire can only incinerate Divine Power within enemies; Sea Grade Fire can refine and extract Divine Power from enemies; Sea Grade Fire is even more formidable, capable of scorching the enemy's soul, leaving them in agony.

Heavenly Grade-Prison Heaven Fire, although unable to directly extract a living person's soul, can upon the enemy's death, break dimensions with burning chains and firmly bind the soul.

Over the past month, Lu Ran has seen quite a few Prisoner Demon-Prison Sky Demon combinations on the Heavenly Realm Battlefield.

Tu Feng spoke slowly: "The Prison Sky Clan possesses the Power of Lao Tian."

Lu Ran praised: "Ancestor Tu indeed strikes to the heart of the matter."

His expedition in the Heavenly Realm made Lu Ran aware of the importance of power!

The defensive power of the Faceless Jade Venerable was truly excessive! To inflict damage upon such clansmen, one must either wield sharp weapons or possess power surpassing one's peers.

Of course, it's best if both conditions are met simultaneously!

Only then can one be like Lu Ran, disarming an enemy's leg in just one confrontation.

If you meet only one condition, then a duel with the Faceless Jade Venerable is inevitable, striving with numerous attacks to inflict harm.

"Tu Feng, thank the Sect Leader for his gracious gift!" Tu Feng lowered his head even further, speaking gravely.

Lu Ran hurriedly helped the Great Martial Monk up, unavoidably feeling the bulging muscles.

What a guy~

This Great Martial Monk, his clothes were packed with stuff!

What a coincidence, the Prison Sky Demon is also a muscle-bound guy.

However, speaking of which, Tu Feng is clearly a martial monk believer, why not shave his head? Wouldn't he look more like the Prison Sky Demon then?

"Smack!" Lu Ran couldn't help it, and slapped Tuo Feng's big arm.

Tuo Feng: ?

Lu Ran suddenly looked at the burly man and confirmed, "Senior Tuo, you call me Sect Leader and join my Ran Sect, right?"

Tuo Feng immediately nodded.

Such a significant matter, how could it be taken lightly?

Lu Ran agreed, and unceremoniously pinched the big arm of the great martial monk, playing with the newly acquired "muscle-bound guy."

Good, good!

Lu Ran was very pleased.

This is the Peak Master of a first-class divine sect, truly a dragon among men!

Following me, your talent and ambition will definitely not be buried!

Tuo Feng: "..."

He seems to understand why Lu Ran had that question earlier.

Before today, Lu Ran treated Tuo Feng with utmost respect, without the slightest rudeness.

Unlike now, his hands are restless...

"Uh." Lu Ran stepped back half a step and activated the Prison Sky Demon Stone Sculpture.

Within the Sculpture Garden, Deng Yuxiang was already in the process of advancing, and now came another big guy, which made his expression look quite unsightly.

However, time costs dearly, so bear with it!

[Chou Nu, come to Heaven's Edge.]

"Swish~"

The steel-faced person with a bamboo hat immediately appeared: "Young Master."

"I need to return to the Heavenly Realm and create the illusion of Tuo Heavenly General's death in the Heavenly Realm. I'm now activating the Transmission Mirror, quickly investigate," Lu Ran commanded.

"Yes!"

Lu Ran practiced the spell while saying, "Oh, Tuo Heavenly General has been forbidden by the deities to cast spells.

It's just too justified that he's dead...

Tuo Feng couldn't help shake his head and laugh.

He undoubtedly sensed that Lu Ran's attitude towards him was different, clearly friendlier.

Additionally, Tuo Heavenly General?

Within the Ran Sect, it seems there isn't such a rank as Heavenly General?

The Ancient Bronze Mirror tore through space and brutally appeared within the Heavenly Realm at a Stone Peak, and Yan Chou immediately entered the mirror to investigate. It took a full half a minute for him to poke his head out from the mirror: "Young Master, everything is safe!"

"Let's go." Lu Ran beckoned Tuo Feng to enter the mirror together.

For Lu Ran, the whole process was already as smooth as could be.

Even though the Prison Sky Demon's Stone Sculpture was still trembling, Lu Ran still pulled the remnant shadow of the Evil God out, signed a contract with Tuo Feng, and together they broke the master-servant bond to ensure safe passage.

Just a few minutes later, the trio returned to Heaven's Edge.

"Tuo Heavenly General, we can talk about your fusion with the Prison Sky Demon Evil Sculpture in a couple of days." Lu Ran patted Tuo Feng's bulging big arm, "Let me take a breather first."

"Yes, Sect Leader." Tuo Feng replied in a deep voice.

In fact, he was still somewhat bewildered at this moment.

In just a few minutes, he had completely freed himself from the deities' restrictions, not only changed sects, but also became a fake god.

"Dismissed."

Lu Ran casually said, his silhouette flickered, appearing in the bedroom of Tianya Residence.

"Hmm..." He took off the Blood Crystal Mask, inhaled deeply, and let out a comfortable nasal sound.

His head buzzed, nearly killing him!

The familiar scent allowed him to briefly forget the pain.

However, the fragrance from the Immortal Jasmine Tree evidently couldn't compare to someone else's healing effect.

Lu Ran wandered around the bedroom and study but didn't see anyone's figure.

Turning back, he suddenly noticed a charm shadow standing at the study door.

"Master, you're back," Yan Shuangzi said softly.

"Where is my lady?"

"The lady is still in the seclusion room."

"Ah?"

"The lady has already advanced to the Sea Realm Peak, just during Martial Emperor's advancement, but she hasn't come out of the seclusion room yet..."

"Oh." Lu Ran responded, his silhouette flickering again.

Below the bedroom, in a pitch-black seclusion room.

A kneeling and cultivating figure suddenly trembled slightly, and instantly eight Golden Jade Stone Plates spread out within her body.

"Ding~dong~"

The Golden Jade Stone Plates touched the Water Flow Armor, producing sounds like gold and jade striking.

Very pleasing to the ear.

However, the peak-level defensive techniques of the Sea Grade could not move the person in front.

"I."

The familiar voice paused Jiang Ruyi's lifted hand in mid-air.

In the darkness, a warm hand covered onto hers, holding the cool slender hand gently downward.

"Oh." Jiang Ruyi only felt a weight in her embrace, and with the faint light emitted by the Golden Jade Stone Plates, she looked at his side profile.

Her cold and indifferent eyes gradually melted.

The youth in the bamboo hat lay sideways on the ground, his face buried into her embrace, resting on her lap.

A soft knee pillow.

A faint jasmine fragrance.

Heavenly Realm, Mountain Realm, Human World...

Home is where the heart finds peace.

...

Chapter 873: A Dao Heart

"Hmm..."

Lu Ran, lying on the bed, opened his sleepy eyes and stared blankly at the stone ceiling above.

It took him a while to remember where he was.

Lu Ran vaguely recalled that he had activated the "Idiot Mode" in the seclusion room. A month of continuous battles left him physically and mentally exhausted. As his mind stopped buzzing, he drifted off into sleep.

Now that he was awake, was he already in his bedroom?

Lu Ran couldn't help but pull a strange face.

It wasn't that he doubted Immortal Jiang's strength—after all, she was at the Sea Realm Peak, and carrying someone weighing around one hundred and fifty or sixty pounds should be a breeze for her.

The key was how she carried him.

Would she have carried him like a princess, like he often did to her?

Tsk~

Just the thought of it made him a bit embarrassed, huh?

Hmm... Or maybe she just used the Magic Artifact-Immortal Binding Whip to drag him up like a dead dog?

"Awake?" A gentle voice came from beside him.

"Ah?" Lu Ran was startled. Turning his head, he found Jiang Ruyi lying next to him.

Lu Ran felt a bit dazed.

Such a large living person had been beside him the whole time, and he hadn't noticed?!

Home, indeed, makes one let down their guard.

Or fundamentally, perhaps Sea Realm people seemed too insignificant to him, easily overlooked...

Arrogance!

Lu Ran slightly furrowed his brows.

After fighting the Faceless Jade Venerable for so long, he hadn't learned anything else, but he did pick up these bad habits.

"What is it?" Jiang Ruyi asked softly.

Lu Ran collected his thoughts, gazed at the stunning beauty close at hand, and grinned:

"Haven't seen you for a month, I heard you advanced to the Sea Realm Peak!"

Jiang Ruyi gently nodded, reporting the overall situation of the Ran Sect to him: "The Martial Emperor's advancement to the Heavenly Realm greatly supported the warriors.

The Wind Emperor, Feng Yan, and the Dragon God General also advanced to the Sea Realm Peak in succession."

"Good!" Lu Ran nodded repeatedly.

With the Divine Seeking General and Divine General Qin, the number of warriors stuck at the 'half-step Heavenly Realm' was quite significant now.

Lu Ran sat up, placing a hand on her cold and beautiful cheek, and smiled:

"So, little Ruyi, when are you planning to advance to the Heavenly Realm?"

Unexpectedly, Jiang Ruyi closed her eyes, feeling the warmth of his palm.

Since Lu Ran woke up, she felt significantly better.

Lu Ran was no longer an ordinary Heavenly Realm, subtly tormenting the weak life around him.

He had returned to being Lu Ran.

The unique emotional entanglements among the Human Clan silently resisted the God Demon System, resisted the Heaven and Earth Laws.

"Ruyi."

"Hmm?" Jiang Ruyi kept her eyes closed.

Lu Ran asked softly, "Is there anything you need me to do?"

It was well known that believers at their peak needed a moment of enlightenment, a sudden inspiration!

Unexpectedly, Jiang Ruyi said, "Tell me about your experiences over the past month."

"Uh." Lu Ran pondered for a moment, and four words popped out of his mouth, "Killing, running away."

Jiang Ruyi opened her eyes, smiled, and glared at him, "Go on, tell me more."

"Tell you more." Lu Ran pouted, muttering, "Do you take me for your social media?"

Jiang Ruyi: "..."

If Lu Ran hadn't said this, she would've almost forgotten she came from modern society.

The last time she used a phone, she couldn't even remember when it was.

To think back then, when she grew up and studied in the Human World, and lived in modern cities, those were truly memorable days.

It all seemed so ordinary at the time!

Humans, really are strange creatures.

When in the Human World, she wanted to see the Divine Ruins afterward.

After arriving at the Holy Spirit Mountain, she desperately wanted to return to the Human World.

Alas, there was no returning to the Human World, and she could only go from the heavens, but the Heavenly Realm wasn't the way home; it was just another lie of the God Demon.

It was merely another place of labor for the Human Clan, a place to bury the bones.

Jiang Ruyi listened intently to the young man returning from the Heavenly Realm Battlefield as he narrated everything about that place.

The Heavenly Realm was a true God Demon Battlefield.

Above, the Gods and Demons confronted external enemies.

Below, their lackeys fought over resources with the Faceless Jade Venerable.

In that world, the Human Clan believers were a minority, and they were hunted by external enemies and suppressed in alliance by the Gods and Demons.

Why did you Humans have the potential to create miracles and defy destiny?

Lu Ran narrated his sightings and experiences over the past month, also mentioning Deng Yuxiang's terrifying growth speed.

When Jiang Ruyi heard about his transformation into a Pseudo God Stone Sculpture and how it led to such barbaric growth and a powerful rise, she was overjoyed.

"The Big Nightmare has already reached Heavenly Realm-Second Rank, soon, I'll have her create a body!" Lu Ran couldn't hide his excitement.

Jiang Ruyi suddenly said, "The Divine Mountain is the passage for Dead Souls; all resources gather there. If you could settle near the Divine Mountain..."

Lu Ran couldn't help but raise his eyebrows slightly.

This was precisely the future development plan he had researched and devised with Mr. Conglong.

Unfortunately, in the past month, Lu Ran still hadn't seen the silhouette of the Divine Mountain.

After all, the trio of Lu Ran were not advancing recklessly, but secretly causing trouble, progressing in a roundabout way.

Jiang Ruyi pondered, calmly analyzing: "That way, you won't delay your own cultivation, and you can wait for the prey to walk right in."

"That's right, Mr. Cong Long's idea coincides with yours. Now, I'm looking for a Divine Mountain, the right one."

"The right one?"

"Every Divine Mountain and its surrounding area has different God Demon minion races guarding them," Lu Ran explained, "My place of seclusion must be carefully selected."

What is the right hideaway?

There probably isn't a clear answer, but by the process of elimination, you can remove some of the worst choices.

For instance, the Divine Mountain guarded by Greedy Wolf and Evil Dog minions, the one where Mountain Lord and Yinli Tiger minions reside, such existences are elusive, and importantly, extremely perceptive!

This would greatly increase the risk of Lu Ran's exposure.

The problem is: any Divine Mountain is, of course, heavily guarded, so which area's Divine Mountain lacks an excellent scout team?

That's why Lu Ran must carefully select, to find the relatively short one among the tall ones.

As soon as Lu Ran settles into seclusion, the grand endeavor can be expected!

In the planning conceived by Lu Ran and Yu Changsheng, Lu Ran himself would cultivate and appropriately intercept dead souls.

The soldiers of Ran Sect would form squads in other areas, collect Holy Spirit Energy, slay enemies, and devour dead souls.

Thus, the configuration of the squad becomes particularly important.

The first type is Armor-Piercers, like Deng Yuxiang and Si Xianxian.

Including powerful divine beings like Yan Chou and Wu Xiao, although small skills hardly harm the Faceless Jade Venerable, their ultimate moves can still make an impact.

Yan Chou's Sky-reaching Demon Spear, Wu Xiao's Double Hero Mask·Mighty Black Face, all respectable on the stage.

Then there are the scouts, such as Yan Shuangzi and Golden Sparrow.

Third are the team's early warning devices: fortune-telling shamans, those who glimpse heavenly secrets and foxes.

Such as Chang Ying, Bai Manni, Bai Yanhui, these people can always ensure that disaster is a step behind the team!

The fourth are those with strategic value, able to lead squads in rapid maneuvers—Lu Yuan and Qin Yanzhi, master and disciple!

On these four cornerstones, supplemented by soldiers skilled in defense, healing, control, Soul Binding, and so on, a powerful squad can be assembled.

Yu Changsheng believed that there could be 2-3 such squads of Ran Sect.

After all, more squads would dilute personnel strength, whereas fewer would make the target too large and resource distribution difficult.

Some days ago, when Yu Changsheng laid out this strategic plan to Lu Ran, Lu Ran nodded continuously!

Like a chicken pecking rice!

What does it mean to have a promising future?

"...That's it." Lu Ran briefly recounted the plan.

Jiang Ruyi nodded silently, and then said: "Chang Ying is currently still at the Second Rank of the Sea Realm, Elder Bai and Manni's strength and realm are also insufficient."

Lu Ran replied: "People like Chang the Shaman are not in the combat sequence, as long as the other squad members are well-configured, she can accompany the team on expeditions."

The energy in the Heavenly Realm Battlefield is rich, making cultivation faster than in the Mountain Realm."

Even so, Lu Ran added: "There's still time before the squad forms, no rush."

Lu Ran has just entered the Heavenly Realm, still in the initial stage.

Under his command are only Deng Yuxiang, Yan Chou, and Bai Rao available, even adding Lu Yuan, it is just enough to form a squad prototype.

Moving forward, he must still seek the Divine Mountain, try to seize dead souls, and quickly invite out the killing implements like Luo Ying and Wu Xiao.

Starting off is always the hardest!

Just like when Lu Ran first entered the Mountain Realm, as long as he gets through the hardest starting phase, everything will get better.

Additionally, if he can find the old subordinates from Mother's Cloud Sea along the way in choosing a Divine Mountain, the collective strength of Ran Sect would be greatly enhanced!

Yan Chou and Bai Rao are excellent examples.

Once fused with stone sculptures, they are no longer controlled or suppressed by God Demons, advancing boldly to the Second Layer of the Heavenly Realm!

"Ruyi." Lu Ran recovered his thoughts, gently called.

"Hmm?"

Lu Ran suddenly flipped over, his hands supporting on the bed beside her head, looking down into her beautiful eyes.

Jiang Ruyi's expression was somewhat unnatural, slightly turned her head, avoiding the gaze.

His action was aggressive, the terrifying pressure from the Heavenly Realm couldn't be fully erased by other factors.

"I've told you about the Heavenly Realm encounters and explained the next steps and future plans," Lu Ran spoke softly, "What else would you like me to do for you?"

Jiang Ruyi's eyelashes trembled lightly, as if hinting at her slightly trembling heart:

"Do you want... to let the Martial Emperor fuse with a stone sculpture, and throw him... into your, Sculpture Garden."

"Oh." Lu Ran seemed a bit disappointed, responded softly, "Then I'll go."

Jiang Ruyi's heart tightened: "You can..."

"Hmm?"

"You can rest... stay with me a little longer." She looked elsewhere, her voice soft and light.

Lu Ran chuckled: "Just a little while?"

Jiang Ruyi finally looked up, meeting Lu Ran's face.

Eye to eye, she saw in his eyes the familiar, teasing smile.

It should have been annoying, as it usually was.

But as she looked, she suddenly felt, as if something shattered within the void.

"Hoo!!"

Suddenly, a violent surge of Divine Power rippled out from within her.

Instantly, the smile in Lu Ran's eyes vanished, replaced by astonishment.

Then filled with delight!

Jiang Ruyi also smiled, gently raised her hand, her fingertips lightly brushing across his brow.

Indeed,

Just staying a little won't suffice.

...

Chapter 874: Holding Something Back?

Lu Ran was ecstatic!

Jiang Ruyi has commenced her advancement mode? Heading straight for the Heavenly Realm!

He didn't dare to delay, immediately carrying Jiang Ruyi to the seclusion room, then hurriedly withdrew, fearing to disturb her advancement.

After returning to his chamber, Lu Ran indulged in secret joy for a while before entering the Spiritual World.

"Big Nightmare!"

"Hm?" Deng Yuxiang looked at the diminutive human clan nearby, slightly raising an eyebrow, "What's made you so happy?"

She was in the sculpture garden, akin to being confined in a small dark room, unaware of all that occurred outside.

"Ruyi is advancing to the Heavenly Realm." Lu Ran said happily.

"Oh." Deng Yuxiang smiled a bit, not surprised.

Jiang Ruyi was the least of her worries, even perceiving that among the Ran Sect members, Jiang Ruyi's Dao Heart was the purest.

Without any impurities.

Jiang Ruyi need not consider anything else, her path was incredibly clear, and singular.

Lu Ran needed to rise higher, because Jiang Ruyi would eventually be guided to reach the heights he touched.

"Come on, shall I help you craft a body?" Lu Ran proposed.

Deng Yuxiang tilted her head slightly, indicating behind her, "Mr. Conglong wishes to speak with you."

"Mr. Conglong?" Lu Ran flew to the third row.

"Sect Leader!" Yu Changsheng was succinct, "While the Sect Leader returns to the mountain this time, I'll attempt to have the stone sculpture stand amidst the sea, to observe its energy consumption?"

"Hm, also good." Lu Ran contemplated, then exited the sculpture garden.

In the next instant, he was already appearing outside Heaven's Edge, descending towards the sea, as a luxurious silvery-white fish tail sprouted from his waist, enveloping his legs.

With a splash, waves erupted!

Lu Ran dove two to three hundred meters, suspending himself in the pitch-black sea域, slowly raising his right hand.

"Hoo!!"

Amidst a terrifying energy fluctuation, a massive stone sculpture rapidly assembled and formed.

Lu Ran shielded his face with one hand, letting the turbulence push him backward.

[Mr. Conglong?] Lu Ran attempted to communicate telepathically.

[Sect Leader, please wait.] A message from Yu Changsheng imprinted in his mind.

The Conglong Stone Sculpture indeed left the sculpture garden, but both sides could still communicate telepathically.

Lu Ran nodded silently, consistent with his past experiences, every time he summoned the stone sculpture from the garden and fused with the Ran Sect warriors, Lu Ran could clearly issue commands to the stone sculpture.

He pondered for a moment, a surge of energy manifesting in his right hand.

"Pop~" A small Mo Li quietly emerged, its fish mouth opening and closing, releasing a string of bubbles.

Utterly adorable.

Lu Ran felt assured!

Not only could he communicate telepathically, but he could also continue to employ the techniques related to the Conglong Stone Sculpture.

But a problem arose, wasn't Conglong already out of the sculpture garden?

Every time Lu Ran exercised the Divine Technique and Evil Technique, he had to closely connect with the pseudo god stone sculpture within the garden to perform the technique.

From this perspective...

The Conglong Stone Sculpture indeed left, but Lu Ran keenly sensed that through that mysterious sculpture garden, they were still tightly connected!

Thus, the sculpture garden was the medium for everything!

It was the origin of the Conglong Stone Sculpture, deeply rooted in Lu Ran's mind.

"Indeed." Lu Ran nodded silently, a sudden thought striking him.

If he were to return to the Human World at this moment, could he still telepathically communicate and smoothly perform techniques with the Conglong Stone Sculpture?

He must give it a try.

As Lu Ran contemplated, he received another telepathic message from Yu Changsheng: [Sect Leader, the situation looks favorable.]

[Oh?]

[As my entity assembles and stabilizes, it hardly consumes any Origin Energy anymore.] Yu Changsheng expressed delightedly.

This provided a potential for his next plan!

[Good.] Lu Ran exhaled a sigh of relief.

If the stone sculpture continuously consumed massive amounts of Origin Energy while in existence, it would be dreadful...

Who could afford it?

[Sect Leader, can you still employ my techniques?]

[I can, I just tested it.] Lu Ran then explained his understanding of the relationship between the sculpture garden and stone sculpture.

Yu Changsheng pondered, slowly stating: [I dare to discuss a matter with Sect Leader.]

[Mr. Conglong, no need to hesitate, just say it.] Lu Ran was a bit puzzled.

[I think the Sect Leader should have a contingency plan.] Yu Changsheng said seriously.

A contingency plan?

Lu Ran raised an eyebrow slightly.

[The Sect Leader treats people sincerely, cares for subordinates, recognizes followers, generously bestows the stone sculpture.] Yu Changsheng's words were slow, as if formulating his thoughts, [but the future is uncertain; no one knows what may happen.]

Lu Ran remained silent, awaiting further elaboration.

[I actually knew you just employed my technique without interference from me; you could do it at will, but if...]

[If what?]

[Sect Leader, why not try again to see if the technique is still executable?]

Lu Ran immediately summoned the small Mo Li.

The situation that unfolded next made him deeply furrow his brows.

He encountered an unprecedented obstruction, with no small Mo Li appearing in his palm.

Yu Changsheng spoke solemnly: [I am not a stone sculpture born within the sculpture garden; previously, when you prohibited me from performing techniques, essentially you commanded the stone sculpture, thereby forcibly limiting me.]

Now that the stone sculpture is gone, I have entirely replaced it.

I possess intellect, have my own opinions, and can make decisions for myself.]

Lu Ran silently stared at his palm, the small Mo Li never appearing.

[I know the Ran Sect warriors are loyal, and I do not believe anyone dares to defy you, but...]

[I understand.] Lu Ran said softly.

Yu Changsheng decisively skipped over this point and continued: [Furthermore, perhaps the Stone Sculpture and the Sect Leader are too far apart, you may not be able to cast spells.]

[Maybe a Pseudo God Stone Sculpture is heavily injured, dies in battle, etc., then you won't be able to use its skills.]

Yu Changsheng spared his colleagues some face and didn't mention them being persuaded otherwise.

After all, this not only concerns the personality of colleagues but also Lu Ran's judgement in selecting people and his ability to manage them.

[Mm.] Lu Ran nodded lightly. Whether subjective or objective factors, he ought to find alternatives for his core technique.

So, what exactly is his core technique?

Instant Teleportation?

Yan Shuangzi would sooner or later merge with the Greedy Wolf-Evil Dog Stone Sculpture and then leave the Sculpture Garden.

It's not that Lu Ran wished for her to die in battle, but as Yu Changsheng suggested, one must have a backup plan!

Therefore, the Evil Sculpture possessing the Instant Teleportation Technique — Blood Skull must not be given to others.

But... is Instant Teleportation really that important?

In the past month of Heavenly Realm battles, he's rarely used this skill.

Not even using it. How can that be considered a core technique?

Lu Ran pressed his lips together, deeply analyzing himself, and finally realized what is most crucial in his battle system.

Evil Sense!

The ability to enhance the five senses and gather and process a large amount of information in a short time.

Evil Sensitivity!

Elevating control over the body to an unlimited degree, quick actions, nimble reactions.

And Power Amplification!

Indeed, these techniques, hidden in the dark and unnoticed, are the foundation of everything.

Blood Skull Evil Technique·Burning Blood Body can, indeed, fully amplify body attributes.

The terrifying techniques from the Evil Demon Leader amplify speed, agility, and strength to top levels in the world.

But on the aspect of perception, it falls short.

Considering this, the Second-class God Demon Mountain Lord - Yinli Tiger, must be kept.

At least one must be kept.

[Thank you, Mr. Conglong, for your guidance. I'll carefully consider it upon returning.] Lu Ran solemnly responded.

Conglong Stone Sculpture held a giant Stone Fan, slightly bowed, and cupped his hands toward Lu Ran.

Then, he changed the topic: [Sect Leader! Why not let me stay in this sea area, root at the sea bottom, and guard the ends of the earth?]

Lu Ran frowned slightly: [Slaying 10 Great Sea Realm Demons in the Mountain Realm is just barely comparable to slaying one Heavenly Realm minion in the Heavenly Realm.]

Yu Changsheng added: [The urgent matter for the Sect Leader is still to cultivate Luoshen Divine General and Martial Emperor.]

Lu Ran: "..."

Yu Changsheng advised: [An auxiliary like me is not the highest priority for assembling the Ran Sect team.

Our summoned physical bodies are essentially proxies. Even if injured or dead, it's just a resource loss, without harming the Pseudo God Stone Sculpture itself.]

Lu Ran remained silent, with a sense of guilt rising in his heart.

Clearly, Yu Changsheng was the first to advance to the Heavenly Realm, yet now he willingly gives way.

From start to finish, the strategist's every action stems from dedication to Ran Sect.

For Lu Ran, the person.

[Sect Leader, at the ends of the earth, soldiers often advance, for instance, at present, my Stone Sculpture stands here, capable of purifying a significant amount of pure Holy Spirit Energy.]

That was the truth.

The mist caused by Jiang Ruyi advancing to the Heavenly Realm extended to a radius of eight hundred meters; though there was no mist in the sea, energy indeed existed there.

Yu Changsheng laughed: [The Sect Leader mustn't forget that Great Sea Realm Demons are the kings of Holy Spirit Mountain, accidents are rare. In the vast sea, there's likely Evil Demon minions lingering for decades in this realm.]

They contain an astonishing total amount of resources in their bodies...

[Mr. Conglong.]

[Sect Leader, you speak.]

Lu Ran solemnly said: [I will quickly find Divine Mountain, plunder Dead Souls, and cultivate Luoshen Divine General and Martial Emperor as soon as possible, then come to retrieve you.]

Yu Changsheng spoke quietly: [Sect Leader, I indeed believe that catching one Great Sea Realm Demon can directly satiate hunger.]

Lu Ran laughed silently.

Yu Changsheng also laughed: [Nowadays, many soldiers of Ran Sect have reached the Fourth and Fifth Ranks of Sea Realm.

The coming period will see an unprecedented explosive growth in our comprehensive strength!]

Lu Ran deeply agreed with this.

Yu Changsheng's expression grew serious: [More and more Stone Sculptures will need the Sect Leader's cultivation! I believe the Sect Leader should aim to establish teams and choose Stone Sculptures for cultivation in sequence.

Once the team is formed, soldiers can help one another, fast-tracking growth, not relying solely on the Sect Leader alone.]

Lu Ran nodded lightly, once again saying: [Thank you for your guidance, sir.]

Yu Changsheng: [Before some Stone Sculptures are placed as main cultivation targets, the Sect Leader can first hide them in the mountains, let them venture into Evil Demon bases, and grow independently.]

This comment inevitably made Lu Ran think of Tufeng.

Perhaps, Tufeng could be sent to Soul-locking Mountain?

There, shrouded in gray mist, with three or four Evil Nests hidden in the mountain, the Evil Demons generally have low intelligence, not lacking means to devour Dead Souls.

Let Tufeng grow there first, nothing could be more fitting.

[Sect Leader, I will stay here and focus on cultivation.] Yu Changsheng communicated while holding the Stone Fan and sending it forward.

"Whoosh!!!" Waves of energy surged.

The enormous Stone Fan continually transformed, stone pieces peeling away, eventually revealing its true form.

Divine Weapon·River of Mist and Rain Fan!

There was also a black Command Flag, similarly returning from a large stone product to its original appearance.

Magic Artifact·Black Armor Command Flag!

Lu Ran glanced over and saw that Yu Changsheng's Sea Realm physical body, wrapped in a gold and black soft veil, swiftly swam over and picked up the fan and the flag respectively.

"Sect Leader, I'll send you off." Yu Changsheng swam beside Lu Ran, speaking directly under the veil's protection.

[Then I will not disturb Mr. Conglong's cultivation.] Lu Ran looked deeply at Yu Changsheng, [No need to send me.]

With those words, Lu Ran's figure vanished.

In the tranquil sea region, remained one large and one small, one sculpture and one person.

...

Chapter 875: The Silent Night Blade's Humming...

At the end of October, having prepared everything, Lu Ran once again led his team to ascend to the Heavenly Realm.

He didn't wait for Jiang Ruyi to complete her advancement. Considering the days, she might still need half a month, or even twenty days, to level up.

With that time, Lu Ran could possibly train the newly inducted Martial Emperor up to the second level of the Heavenly Realm!

This time, ascending to the heavens, Lu Ran's team had an additional member—the Nightmare Guardian.

She had used her physical strength of the first level of the Heavenly Realm to bring a host of divine weapons and magic artifacts from her stone sculpture body, and once again returned to Lu Ran's side.

Accompanying him on the journey to find the Divine Mountain.

The Heavenly Realm Battlefield has no distinction of southeast, northwest.

Nor does it have the alternation of day and night.

This world is forever in a state of dimness, with a dense cloud sea overhead, and a thick sea of fog drifting below.

After staying here for a long time, everyone can't feel the passage of time.

Everywhere they look, it's the same scenery, making Lu Ran feel as if they are treading in place...

Perhaps on the eighth day, or on the ninth day, Lu Ran finally saw something different!

"There, I see it!"

Lu Ran, filled with excitement, couldn't help but speak up.

He quickly climbed a stone peak, gazing into the distance, under the gloomy sky in the distance, unusual weather appeared.

There was frost mist enshrouded!

Lu Ran employed the Paper Simurgh Evil Technique·Simurgh's Eyes, through the swirling frost snow, he saw an incredibly magnificent mountain!

"Oh!" Lu Ran slightly opened his mouth.

Knowing that those peaks immersed in the sea of fog, whether large or small, the tallest was only a few dozen meters.

And this so-called Divine Mountain...

connects heaven and earth!

"Little Lu~ don't forget to kill the donkey after the grinding!" A beautiful snake climbed the peak, came to Lu Ran's feet, and spoke cruel words in a gentle tone.

"Oh." Lu Ran snapped back to reality, retracting his gaze somewhat.

Hundreds of meters away in the sky, there was a dead soul slowly drifting towards the southwest.

This dead soul had a male figure, slender body, wearing a long white robe, with a small bamboo hat on his head.

His eyes were filled with a strange cold light, with unbound white hair fluttering in the wind.

Evil Demon·Ice Burial Man!

The "donkey" in Bai Rao's mouth was this poor fellow.

Because after the minions of the God Demon die, their souls drift to the nearest Divine Mountain, so along the way, after every slaughter, the group would leave a guiding soul behind.

This Ice Burial Man's dead soul was the one who took the baton yesterday.

Now, it's time to kill him as well.

"Phew~" Lu Ran soared high, quickly arriving behind the Ice Burial Man.

"Huh?" The Ice Burial Man immediately sensed a strange suction appeared, pulling him backward.

The Ice Burial Man's skin was already deathly pale, the illusory nature of the dead soul restored this point quite well.

Seeing the youth with a raincoat approach, looking at him coldly, the Ice Burial Man's complexion seemed even whiter...

Just yesterday, the Ice Butterfly-Ice Burial Man pair were still intimate partners, galloping in the vast world.

It was also yesterday, the beautiful Ice Butterfly's dead soul was devoured clean by the youth with a raincoat.

Leaving the lonely Ice Burial Man, like a solitary wandering soul, drifting desolately towards the southwest.

Now it seems,

Even the Divine Mountain, he cannot return to.

The raincoat youth came to devour him!

"Hiss! Hiss..." The Ice Burial Man struggled intensely, shrieking mournfully.

However, it was all in vain, as the dead soul continuously contracted, merging into the eyes of the raincoat youth.

The Ice Burial Man only felt darkness envelop him, arriving in a fog-shrouded world.

What greeted him was a stone goddess statue with a wide bamboo hat and a raincoat—Luo Ying!

After merging with the stone sculpture of spirits and demons, the Human Clan acquires its own thoughts, and is no longer just a "dead object".

Under the guidance of the master of spirits and demons, Luoshen would usurp, before the Evil Sculpture·Ice Burial Man, using a giant stone hand to grasp the dead soul, incorporating it into the stone sculpture.

"Hmm..." Luo Ying closed her eyes, emitting a nasal sound.

[Divine General Luoshen?]

Luo Ying quickly sent a voice transmission: [Apologies, Sect Leader, for disturbing you.]

[Seems like you enjoyed it quite a lot, didn't you?] Lu Ran, in a good mood, teased.

[Yesterday's Ice Butterfly, today's Ice Burial Man, both contain quite a lot of Holy Spirit Energy in their souls.] Luo Ying truthfully conveyed, reporting, [More potent than the energy in those Faceless Jade Venerable's dead souls before.]

[Good.]

On the Heavenly Realm Battlefield, Lu Ran steadily landed on the stone peak, once again gazing into the distance.

Deng Yuxiang landed beside Lu Ran, inquiring: "In this expanse, are there many dead souls?"

Vision is not Deng Yuxiang's strong suit, due to the distance being too far, she even couldn't see the Divine Mountain.

"There are some." Lu Ran squinted his eyes, observing carefully for a moment, casually extracting the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd, "The few of you, come over."

Two Heavenly Generals immediately gathered over.

"Enter the gourd to rest for a while, I'll sneak in to snatch some resources." Lu Ran whispered, directly absorbing the three into the gourd.

During frontal battles, the Nightmare Guardian, the Heavenly General Yan Bai, are naturally excellent helpers of Lu Ran.

Especially when fighting the minions of spirits and demons, these three are ferocious one after another, with incredible slaughter efficiency!

But in the shadows, Lu Ran is the true expert.

"Phew~"

With the three absorbed into the gourd, Lu Ran directly plunged into the thick sea of fog, disappearing within, transforming into the invisible.

With a few instances of instant teleportation, Lu Ran increasingly approached the Divine Mountain area, seeing everything more clearly.

Quite a number of dead souls were converging from all directions towards the Divine Mountain.

Seeing this, Lu Ran's fingers twitched with excitement!

Soon, among the peaks, in the sky and on the ground, he found the figure of Faceless Jade Venerable.

It was clear that their thoughts coincided with Lu Ran's.

However, the Faceless Jade Venerables were very in sync and did not enter the area shrouded in frost and snow.

Indeed, they lacked perception techniques and couldn't see through the frost and snow.

Lu Ran gathered all his focus, finally looking towards the towering Divine Mountain.

"Magnificent!"

He couldn't help but admire in his heart.

A mountain, ten thousand feet high, rose from the ground, towering and earth-shaking!

The part of the mountain reaching into the sky's sea of clouds wasn't even the peak! Could it be called the mountain's waist?

The majestic Divine Mountain was magnificent and grand.

And it was beautiful!

Because all over the Divine Mountain, mysterious, pitch-black lotuses were in full bloom.

Evil Demon Clan·Black Lotus!

If expected, once the Divine Mountain was attacked by enemies, phantoms of divine minions, Sword Lotuses, could rise from those huge black lotuses.

"How many flowers are there..." Lu Ran murmured in his heart.

Among the black lotus clusters were smaller clumps of ice-blue rose flowers scattered throughout.

Seventh-class Evil Demons·Ice Rose Clan!

The blooming black lotuses and roses almost covered the grand Divine Mountain.

Tsk tsk~

The Ice Burial Clan is really fortunate, aren't they?

Relying on a pair of Simurgh's Eyes, Lu Ran saw through the frost and snow, clearly seeing each Ice Burial Clan member wandering within the sea of flowers, guarding the Divine Mountain.

Occasionally, the phantom of a divine minion, Ice Butterfly, would appear on them.

The image of the Fifth-class God·Ice Butterfly itself was an exquisitely beautiful butterfly!

Lu Ran couldn't help but hover in the air, gazing intently and secretly appreciating it.

Among the chaotic flowers, the phantom of each ice crystal butterfly appeared in a beautiful ice-blue, with delicate, translucent wings, and adorned with sparkling ice crystals frozen on them.

It gave off a sensation of extreme coldness, exquisite delicacy, and a fragility that seemed easy to shatter.

"Ah..." Lu Ran sighed inwardly.

This was simply an artwork that deserved to be collected.

Beauty is justice!

As Lu Ran watched, the thought "You were born a fair lady, why become a thief" spurred in his mind.

In fact, he had this thought yesterday when he was "eating a butterfly".

Besides, did the Ice Burial Clan, like frozen corpses, serve as physical carriers for the Ice Butterflies?

Such a wonderful thing should appear in my Dragon Guardian's palm.

Or on the fingertips of little Ruyi.

Hmm... depends on the situation.

If I could keep a Pseudo God Stone Sculpture of an Ice Butterfly in the garden, maintaining its shape to keep and admire is also great.

The stone sculptures in the garden indeed seemed like dead objects without much subjective initiative unless united with the Human Clan.

But... as long as they're obedient, that's fine~

Lu Ran thought silently, quickly surveying his surroundings.

The presence of the Faceless Jade Venerables was indeed annoying, but fortunately, they couldn't clearly see the dead souls, only sensing them when they approached a certain range.

Lu Ran maximized his advantages, rapidly binding souls, and seizing resources.

In the Sculpture Garden, Luoshen began lavishly devouring, striving towards the second level of the Heavenly Realm.

Lu Ran was quite cautious, sneaking around the grand Divine Mountain, never approaching the area shrouded in frost and snow.

Once inside, he'd surely be perceived by the divine minion, Ice Butterfly.

Lu Ran didn't believe he could contend with a mountain full of flowers.

Even the arrogant Faceless Jade Venerables stayed respectfully outside...

So, could the area near this Divine Mountain be considered a suitable place for seclusion?

This mountain, occupied jointly by fourth, fifth, and seventh-class Gods and Demon minions, wasn't overwhelmingly strong in terms of power.

The crucial issue was their invincible perception ability.

Lu Ran frowned slightly, consistently feeling that this "Sea of Flowers God Mountain" wasn't as weak as it appeared.

Within the mountain, there should be strong Gods and Demons from the top three rows stationed, right?

"Buzz!!"

Very abruptly, the blade at Lu Ran's waist lightly trembled.

"Hmm?" Lu Ran was stunned for a moment, reaching into his arms to grip the cold hilt.

This is... Silent Night Sword?!

Lu Ran was shocked and quickly retreated.

Unbeknownst to him, he was less than twenty kilometers from the Divine Mountain, his silhouette almost engulfed by the area shrouded in frost and snow.

[Master! I...]

The Silent Night Sword, usually silent, not only transmitted thoughts but trembled slightly.

"Gulp." Lu Ran's Adam's apple bobbed as realization dawned on him.

The Sword Spirit of the Silent Night Sword stated deeply: [In that instant, I detected the presence of that Divine Weapon!]

Lu Ran's breath halted!

In the Heavenly Realm, believers only communicate with their gods within the Divine Mountain area.

Meanwhile, the Divine Weapon·Silent Night Sword, being near the Divine Mountain, sensed the Divine Weapon that has always suppressed it and blocked it from understanding its domain?

Does this mean...

That Divine Weapon is in an even higher heaven?

In the hands of the Divine Demon itself?!

...

Chapter 876: Battle of the Divine Mountain

[Where is it?] Lu Ran hurriedly inquired.

The Silent Night Blade Spirit spoke unusually long: [The other party seems to be in another world, it's hard to judge the distance. I don't know how far or near, but I know, it's right above us.]

[Hmm.] Lu Ran's expression was grave.

He certainly hoped that the Divine Weapon was in the hands of the Human Clan.

In the area of the Second Heaven, there should also be people from the Human Clan... right?

In any case, we must prepare for the worst! The domain of the Silent Night Blade might really collide with the domain of some god or evil demon's Divine Weapon.

This would be difficult to handle.

To seize a Divine Weapon Domain, one must first have the strength to challenge a Divine Demon...

What's even more terrifying is that the domain of the Silent Night Blade is related to "silence"!

Lu Ran remembers clearly that it was on the night of the fifteenth, while fighting with the extremely annoying Evil Demon-Golden Winged Bat Clan, the Silent Night Blade realized the future path.

Moreover, the Silent Night Blade not only wanted the Golden Winged Bat to be silent but was more inclined to forbid any divine power fluctuations in a certain area.

A dead silence!

Such a direction of realization, isn't it a prohibition of casting spells?

The myriad techniques owned by the gods and demons out there, no matter how powerful, can't escape the realm of "soft control".

But the path of the Silent Night Blade seems to be truly strong control!

The opponent is originally a god, plus a Divine Weapon with a silence effect!

How the hell can you fight this?

Not to mention the battle, for a long time, techniques like invisibility and instant teleportation have helped Lu Ran stand invincible.

But in front of the opponent, all these techniques would lose their effect!

No retreat available.

The more he thought about it, the heavier Lu Ran's heart felt.

He feared he couldn't take down the opponent alone, needed to get more helpers...

The only consolation at present is that the enemy is visible while we are hidden.

The Silent Night Blade probably hasn't been exposed.

Because Lu Ran always had the Greedy Wolf Divine Technique·Wolf Concealment activated!

This technique not only conceals him and masks his aura but also hides all the Divine Weapon artifacts he carries with him.

[Silent Night.]

[Hmm.] Silent Night Blade reverted to a cold demeanor, even the response was just a soft sound.

Lu Ran composed himself, sending his thoughts: [The enemy is likely very powerful, we must prepare thoroughly to challenge them.]

[Hmm.] Silent Night Blade replied again, with no discernible joy or sorrow.

Lu Ran drew out the Silent Night Blade, gently stroking the blade with two fingers, as if to soothe it, or perhaps to express an apology.

Such a Divine Weapon with the topmost potential, capable of sensing the topmost Divine Weapon Domain in the world.

Yet, it followed Lu Ran and remained perpetually unfulfilled.

Over the years, the Silent Night Blade watched as Lu Ran's other Divine Weapons and Magic Artifacts grew.

Only it remained suppressed, unable to raise its head.

Now that there's finally a clue to the enemy, Lu Ran still can't provide what the Silent Night desires, only letting it continue to endure...

Among all of Lu Ran's Divine Weapons and Magic Artifacts, only the Cloud Sea Blade shares a similar fate with the Silent Night Blade, always suppressed at the First Rank Divine Weapon level.

But the Cloud Sea Dust Clear Blade is willing to accept this!

The Cloud Sea Blade is willing to stay at the base of the mountain, forever refusing to climb, it would look up and even protect the Cloud Sea Sword, letting her stand tall at the peak.

Due to special reasons, the Cloud Sea Blade Spirit even addresses the Cloud Sea Sword Spirit as "mother".

The Silent Night Blade is different.

It's just purely suppressed, a fate of pure misfortune...

"Alas..." Lu Ran held the handle of the Silent Night Blade, continuing to seize Dead Souls, and his complex emotions were soon interrupted by the buzzing in his brain.

Lu Ran's body tensed instantly.

Then, his mood improved significantly.

In the Sculpture Garden, the Luo Ying Stone Sculpture's size began to expand!

Good!

Lu Ran licked his lips, causing disturbance near the Divine Mountain indeed yields twice the result with half the effort.

He wouldn't pause for a moment, executing tasks against the clock.

A mere vibrate of a Stone Sculpture wouldn't cause Lu Ran to lose his combat power, at most it would have some effect.

Hopefully, before little Ruyi ascends, the Martial Emperor can be pushed to the Heavenly Realm·Second Heaven as well!

Deng Yuxiang, Yan Chou, Bai Rao, Luo Ying, Wu Xiao.

Three First-class Fake Gods, two Second-class Fake Gods, a total of five lethal weapons!

Facing other petty gods and demons, they can handle it with ease. Facing the Faceless Jade Venerable clan, they can break through its defenses as well.

Enough to be the cornerstone of a team!

Eventually, they'll drag Elder Lu and Elder Bai into the team, equipped with the transmitter and early warning machine, supplemented by one or two scouts.

The Ran Sect team can then roam freely on the Heavenly Realm battlefield!

Lu Ran planned in his mind, with a boundary of 20 kilometers, or precisely the area covered by Frost Snow, to cause disturbances around the Divine Mountain.

Snatching food from the tiger's mouth!

Competing with the Faceless Jade Venerable for resources.

Perhaps due to his overzealous approach, or for some other reason, on the fourth day, an accident happened!

At that time, Lu Ran was still robbing on the outskirts. After he snatched another Dead Soul, he was surprised to see a large group of people emerge from the vast snowstorm in the distance.

"Hmm?" Lu Ran's face changed slightly.

Indeed!

This God Mountain covered with flowers is not as fragile as it appears on the surface.

The strong god hidden in the mountain turned out to be the Second-class God Demon minion·North Wind Night Charm?!

Or perhaps, these guys weren't always hiding in the Divine Mountain, but were transmitted over for support.

Hmm... it's also possible, that it was just now summoned by the Divine Demon itself.

Lu Ran thought silently, understanding a lot.

Anyway, a combination of Second-class God Demons has appeared! No wonder so many Faceless Jade Venerables only wander the periphery, refusing to enter within the Frost Snow range.

Once inside, they would become blind, while the North Wind-Night Charm minion combination could use Sound Positioning.

Wait!

What are those Night Charms holding?

Lu Ran squinted his eyes and saw that some of the Night Charms were holding not Night Charm Blades, but horns.

Evil Demon Clan·Netherworld Horn?

"Hiss!"

"Hiss..." Raspy and sharp cries jolted Lu Ran awake.

The Night Charm Clan's speed is astounding!

They tread the air and sprint wildly, the long black veils hanging from their bamboo hat brims fluttering horizontally behind them.

Damn!

So many Deng Yuxiang...

Lu Ran felt a tingling on his scalp!

Seeing the tide-like surge of the Night Charm Clan, he immediately flashed backward.

To his surprise, the arrogant Faceless Jade Venerable Clan was also retreating.

Ha,

it seems that rationality can break arrogance.

Lu Ran suddenly looked up to see magnificent Wind Blades rapidly forming high in the sky.

North Wind's ultimate move·North Wind Divine Blade!

Although the North Wind and Night Charm's ultimate moves externally appear almost identical, why was Lu Ran so certain this was the North Wind Divine Blade?

Because when the North Wind-Night Charm executed such a move, they couldn't move.

The Night Charm Clan was sprinting madly, and only the North Wind minions they carried truly met the conditions for casting!

Click-click~

Lu Ran couldn't help but secretly marvel at this impressive combination.

Night Charm minions were the drivers!

While the North Wind minions sat in the car firing wildly...

"Whoosh!!"

"Whoosh!" The North Wind Divine Blades were evidently Heavenly Grade, each spanning thousands of meters!

Even though the Night Charm Clan was racing in the frost and snow, the blades from the North Wind Sect had already formed in the sky beyond the snowy expanse.

Lu Ran nodded secretly; the Faceless Jade Venerable indeed had to retreat.

No matter how tough they were, they couldn't withstand such damage... Damn!

Lu Ran's eyes widened slightly.

The North Wind Divine Blade was just the opening shot; the true power of the North Wind Sect lay in the ultimate move·North Wind Ten Thousand Blades adapted during the Sea Realm!

Countless Wind Blades were summoned, piercing forward with immense speed.

Dense and all-encompassing!

At the same time, the grand North Wind Divine Blades descended, joining the fray.

The Faceless Jade Venerable indeed had fast flight speed, but it couldn't match the Night Charm's pace!

The graceful Night Charms deftly dodged their own Wind Blades while madly pursuing the Faceless Jade Venerable.

The North Wind minions carried by the Night Charms constantly shifted positions, causing their attack range to expand rapidly forward!

The Faceless Jade Venerable indeed should retreat decisively.

For Lu Ran saw cracks!

The countless Wind Blades from the ultimate move·North Wind Ten Thousand Blades pierced the same patch of the Faceless Jade Venerable's skin, quickly producing a tiny fracture.

"Whoosh~ whoosh~"

"Whoosh!!" The piercing sound of cutting through the air filled the space.

Within a twenty-kilometer radius around Divine Mountain, everything was covered in frost and snow, but beyond that, the dense Wind Blades replaced the frost and snow, covering the entire area!

Lu Ran had fled early and watched the scene from afar, feeling his heart pounding.

Since ascending to the Heavenly Realm, the Faceless Jade Venerable's impression on him had always been overwhelmingly powerful!

Lu Ran even thought that the God Demon minions couldn't compete with them; they were merely lambs awaiting slaughter.

But now, near Divine Mountain, Lu Ran witnessed the Faceless Jade Venerable's defeat for the first time!

From the combination of Second-class God Demon, North Wind-Night Charm minions...

Strong enough to make one's heart tremble!

Unparalleled speed, fast attack speed, extremely wide attack range, and incredibly dense.

Making it hard to withstand and even harder to escape.

"Gulp." Lu Ran's Adam's apple moved, his silhouette retreating again and again.

Amidst the "crack-crack" sounds, one by one, the noble and exquisite Faceless Jade Venerables were pierced and shattered, eventually exploding apart.

"Woo~~~"

The deep horn sound pierced the sky!

The North Wind-Night Charm troops surged like a tide, carrying magnificent giant blades and countless Wind Blades, presenting a massacre feast for Lu Ran.

The playing of the Evil Demon-Netherworld Horn added an epic touch to this grand war!

The North Wind-Night Charm did not possess Spirit Defense Techniques, and the Faceless Jade Venerable wasn't receptive to Spiritual Output, so this deep, distant horn sound wasn't an Output Skill, but...

Evil Technique of Netherworld Horn-Soul Prison Horn!

This clan could absorb the Dead Souls and imprison them within the horn, and each time the Netherworld Horn sounded, the terrifying sound waves would cruelly torture the Dead Souls inside.

Imprisonment and torture were indeed in line with the cruel nature of the Evil Demon Clan.

However, Lu Ran absolutely didn't think the Night Charm Clan held the Soul Prison Horn just to torment the enemy.

They should be using this method to collect all the Faceless Jade Venerable's Dead Souls and then offer them to the Gods and Demons high in the heavens?

No!

I want a piece of the action too!

At least save me a mouthful of soup...

Lu Ran gathered all his focus, aiming for a Faceless Jade Venerable's Dead Soul lingering on the battlefield, where there were fewer Wind Blades.

He gritted his teeth hard, summoned all his courage, and flashed onto the scene!

Chapter 877: Risking It All

Lu Ran had never felt that the process of Soul Binding was so long!

"Left, right, up..." he murmured to himself, forcefully suppressing the pounding of his heart, constantly dodging among thousands of Wind Blades.

The Dead Soul of the Faceless Jade Venerable in front of him continued to converge, merging into his eyes.

Hurry!

Faster!

The sound of air being torn from all directions made Lu Ran aware that a large wave of Wind Blades was coming!

"Swish~" As the Dead Soul completely entered his eyes, Lu Ran's figure flashed away.

Just two or three seconds after he left, dense Wind Blades intertwined, weaving through! Not to mention a living person like Lu Ran, even a small fly would have been shattered into pieces.

"Ha... ha..." Lu Ran retreated dozens of kilometers into the sky, gasping heavily.

He hadn't felt this kind of thrill in a long time.

As the saying goes: fortune seeks amidst danger.

But damn, this was a bit too dangerous!

These weren't ordinary Flying Wind Orders or Night Charm Blades, but blades from the great skill "North Wind Ten Thousand Blades"!

Lu Ran definitely didn't think his defensive ability could match the Faceless Jade Venerable Clan's...

[Martial Emperor, did you swallow it?] Lu Ran asked in his mind, calming himself.

[Refining it now.] Wu Xiao responded in a deep voice.

[This Faceless Jade Venerable has been hunting on the outskirts of the Divine Mountain for a long time. The Holy Spirit Energy contained within her, is it particularly abundant?] Lu Ran inquired.

Actually, during the process when the Dead Soul entered his eyes, Lu Ran could faintly perceive the strength of the soul's energy.

[Yes.] Wu Xiao indeed gave a definite answer, [With a few more souls of this quality, I can certainly level up.]

Lu Ran: "..."

I'm telling you to praise me!

To say, "Sect Master, you have worked hard, thank you for cooking for me."

And you just order food?

Lu Ran concentrated his gaze on another Faceless Jade Venerable Dead Soul, in a region that had just been showered with a "Rain of Blades."

This was the perfect time to exploit a weakness!

"Swish~" Without hesitation, Lu Ran's figure flashed again.

Though he was grumbling, his body was quite honest.

What can be done~?

Got to pamper one's Great Martial Artist!

Thankfully Luo Shen leveled up successfully yesterday, making Lu Ran's brain no longer buzz. Otherwise, he wouldn't dare rush into the battlefield.

During Lu Ran's desperate plunder, the Night Charm Clan surged like a tide, and the Faceless Jade Venerables retreated like a tide as well.

After all, facing North Wind-Night Charm's large-scale assault, the Faceless Jade Venerables never intended to engage head-on.

The impossibly chaotic battlefield gradually settled into peace.

Lu Ran got a bit anxious!

With Wind Blades, he worried; without Wind Blades, he fretted even more!

Lu Ran was indeed in an invisible state, yet he possessed a physical form, with Divine Power fluctuations during spells, and wind turbulence during movement.

And the North Wind-Night Charm minions were adept at hearing the sound of the wind!

Hurry up! Faster...

Lu Ran dashed around the outskirts of the Divine Mountain furiously, anxiously, knowing if the battlefield completely settled down, he'd lose his cover.

Never doubt North Wind-Night Charm's sensitivity to the wind!

"Buzz!!"

Suddenly, Lu Ran's brain blanked.

While he was eyeing the next target, having eaten from the bowl, looking at the pot, the Martial Emperor Stone Sculpture in the garden trembled abruptly.

Lu Ran's heart skipped with joy; after binding the Dead Soul before him, he didn't leave.

Because he saw a pot!

"Swish!" Lu Ran's figure flashed again, arriving behind a Faceless Jade Venerable.

Just then, a Night Charm abruptly changed direction, striding swiftly.

Lu Ran's heart leapt to his throat.

Crap!

Shouldn't have taken from the pot...

What did Little Yuanxi say?

Anyone thinking "Just one last score then stop" will definitely encounter trouble!

The Netherworld Horn held by the Night Charm clearly sensed the direction of the Dead Soul; otherwise, it wouldn't make a ninety-degree turn.

"Chhh..." The Night Charm, draped in mysterious black gauze, let out a tempting hiss.

She came to halt a few meters in front of Lu Ran, lifting the black gauze with her pallid hand, placing the Netherworld Horn near her mouth, and began playing:

"Woo~~~"

Lu Ran: !!!

He gripped the Silent Night Blade tightly, hanging mid-air with the help of the Divine Weapon, not daring to move.

Moving would stir even slight turbulence.

Instant Teleportation away?

That plainly told the other side that an invisible presence was secretly causing trouble on the field.

Lu Ran found himself in a dilemma, indeed a bit overwhelmed!

The Netherworld Horn began binding, attempting to imprison the Faceless Jade Venerable in the horn, yet the issue was, most of the Faceless Jade Venerable's Dead Soul had already entered the Sculpture Garden.

No one saw this bizarre and thrilling scene.

Up in the sky, it appeared calm, only the Night Charm remained.

Yet in another dimension, Lu Ran and the Netherworld Horn were locked in a "tug of war"!

Lu Ran had already swallowed the upper half of the Dead Soul, while the Netherworld Horn continued playing, latching onto the Faceless Jade Venerable's feet.

"Woo!!"

The Netherworld Horn clearly sensed something was amiss.

Without needing the Night Charm to play, it autonomously amplified its volume.

"Whoosh~"

The Faceless Jade Venerable's Dead Soul unexpectedly snapped at the ankle!

It was forcibly torn apart by Lu Ran and the Netherworld Horn!

The majority of the Dead Soul was given to Lu Ran, who seized the initiative, leaving only a pair of feet, collected by the pitch-black horn.

Well... the Netherworld Horn isn't really losing out either?

Lu Ran fixed his gaze on the Night Charm in front of him, fearing she might advance further.

Fortunately, the Night Charm picked up the Netherworld Horn and turned toward the direction of the Divine Mountain, seemingly to report the mission.

That was close!

Lu Ran still dared not move and speculated that the communication between the Night Charm and Netherworld Horn was not smooth.

A demonic item like the Netherworld Horn is indeed difficult to communicate with.

One side believed that the Dead Soul had been completely absorbed into the horn.

The other side was unclear, just feeling that there was no Dead Soul in front of them anymore and that they could stop casting spells...

Not until the shadow of the Night Charm had gone far did Lu Ran use Instant Teleportation to leave.

The Sea Grade · Evil Shadow Flash allowed him to instantly teleport ten thousand meters away.

The Heavenly Grade · Evil Shadow Flash increased the distance tenfold, allowing a single instant teleportation to reach a hundred thousand meters!

A full hundred kilometers!

Calling it short-distance teleportation seems a bit misleading.

Lu Ran ran so far away!

If it were in the human world, it would be like slipping from Da Xia's Beijing straight back to Rain Alley City...

As for the Dead Soul that Lu Ran snatched back, it was entirely consumed by the Divine Sculpture · Dust Shadow Flower.

He flickered several times and arrived at his own stronghold, slipping into a relatively large stone peak.

Then, Lu Ran immediately activated the Transmission Mirror.

With one step, he was on Holy Spirit Mountain!

"Phew!!"

The moment Lu Ran stepped onto Heaven's Edge, he quickly dispersed the Ancient Bronze Mirror.

"Heh... heh..." It was not until this moment that Lu Ran dared to breathe heavily.

Finally safe!

That was so thrilling!

Can't do that again next time, it's just because it's the Netherworld Horn. If it were any other Soul Binding races, like the Prison Sky Demon, Soul-splitting Demon, or Soul Hook Demon, they'd surely be able to detect that the soul they captured wasn't quite right!

Come to think of it, the Netherworld Horn only grabbed a pair of feet; a soul broken to such an extent might hardly exist properly.

Wouldn't the so-called Dead Soul in the horn vanish even before the Night Charm returns to Divine Mountain?

One wonders about the mental state of the demonic · Netherworld Horn itself.

How do these item-like demons stand at such a height?

Lu Ran was quite puzzled and grew more curious about the backgrounds of item-like demons.

Black Lanterns, Netherworld Horn, and other demons generally had pathetically low intelligence. To put it bluntly, they're even less intelligent than a kitten!

Could they be...

The archrival of Black Lantern is Flower Lantern.

The God · Flower Lantern is a humanoid Divine Sculpture, carrying a delicate Eight-sided Lantern.

From this perspective, Evil God · Black Lantern seems more like the opposition to that Eight-sided Lantern?

Does Black Lantern count as... an artifact of the Divine Lord?

It's not even a complete artifact, just half an artifact!

"Sect... Sect Master, is that you?" a trembling voice came through.

Lu Ran looked up, and through the vision-blocking mist, he saw several beautiful Huang Que birds circling above the sea cliff.

Looks like disciples of the Ran Sect · Sky Sparrow Pavilion.

"Continue patrolling." Lu Ran waved his hand, his figure flickering to the outside of Tianya Residence, looking around, "Shadow Guard Team?"

"Sect Master!"

"Master." Several figures immediately flickered into appearance.

Lu Ran found Yan Shuangzi among them and asked, "What's today's date?"

"Fourteenth of the Winter Moon."

Lu Ran nodded, mumbling to himself, "Little Ruyi's progression is really long, it's almost a month..."

Judging from the time, carrying out tasks near Divine Mountain truly yielded great rewards!

Lu Ran took a month to elevate Deng Yuxiang to the Heavenly Realm · Second Stage, while he only took a little more than half a month for Luo Shen General and Martial Emperor.

Especially today's battle at Divine Mountain, Lu Ran was truly satisfied!

It seems that choosing to seclude and cultivate near Divine Mountain was indeed the right decision.

But this "Flower Sea Divine Mountain" is far from the most livable place.

Whether it's the wide-perception Ice Butterfly Clan or the powerful North Wind-Night Charm minion combination, they've both raised red flags for Lu Ran.

Hmm... An occasional visit to scrounge around would be fine.

Finding the next Divine Mountain is necessary.

As Lu Ran thought, he stepped into the tunnel entrance. After arriving at the hall, he released the three people from the gourd.

"Everyone..." Lu Ran sat on the Taishi Chair and recounted his recent experiences to them.

"North Wind Night Charm, Ice Butterfly Ice Burial." Bai Rao frowned slightly, speculating, "Young Lu should be in the north."

Yan Chou also nodded: "Indeed, it's in the north. Young Master, a Divine Mountain occupied by such God Demons and their minions is probably not suitable for you to seclude and cultivate."

"That's what I was thinking." Lu Ran pondered, "I plan to look for another Divine Mountain, but I need to think of a way to visit the Divine Mountain and see if I can find my mother's old Cloud Sea followers."

Lu Ran, being Da Xia's genius, offering himself to the God Demons is unwise.

Yan and Bai could only be helpless, as now they were all "dead" and could not appear alive.

Deng Yuxiang suggested, "Should I take the Cloud Sea Dust Clear Sword and take a stroll through the mountain?"

Lu Ran hesitated for a moment but still said, "This matter, let's put it on hold for now."

Deng Yuxiang's hatred and killing intent towards the North Wind Sect could be hidden by the Magic Artifact · Smoky Blue Gauze, but she was equally young and talented.

Three years older than Lu Ran, she could not be ruled out as a suspect.

On the contrary, most of Da Xia's geniuses were of the same age as Deng Yuxiang!

Was Luo Ying and Wu Xiao the suitable candidates to explore the mountain?

After a moment of contemplation, Lu Ran still said first, "Thank you all for your hard work. Rest at home for a few days until Martial Emperor levels up. I'll make a trip to Hundred Demon Island to nurture the Dust Shadow Stone Sculpture and bring Elder Lu in.

Next time we ascend to heaven, you can act independently as a team."

"Young Master, Chou Nuo will still accompany you to find a suitable place to seclude..."

Lu Ran interrupted: "Now that I roughly understand the situation on the Heavenly Realm Battlefield, acting alone is more stealthy and quicker.

I have put you on track, done what I should, and what you should do is grow as quickly as possible."

He raised his hand to cast a spell; his speech was rarely serious: "My Silent Night Blade very likely clashes with the Divine Weapon Domain of some God Demon, I'm very anxious!"

"Whew~" The Ancient Bronze Mirror in Lu Ran's hand turned into a Landing Mirror.

"Currently, I shouldn't have been exposed... Whether exposed or not, I don't want to wait for them to come looking!

Lu Ran's sight penetrated the white mist, looking at the people in the room: "I want to grab my blade, take my subordinates, and take the initiative to charge in!"

With that said, he retreated into the mirror, his figure disappearing without a trace.

In the hall, there was silence, the three Heavenly Realm figures either standing or kneeling, all in silence.

Chapter 878: Peerless Prodigy!

What is Hundred Demon Island?

Its predecessor was Seven Star Island, Fourteen Star Island, Eighteen Star Island...

As the Evil Sculpture·Evil Mirror Demon in the garden ascended to the Heavenly Realm, Lu Ran summoned a hundred River Realm·Evil Mirror Demon minions.

As early as two months ago, he occupied a hundred islands in the eastern, southeastern, and southern seas far from the mainland of the Holy Spirit Mountain to collect resources falling from the sky for him.

This time, heading to Hundred Demon Island, Lu Ran gave all the collected Holy Spirit Energy to the Divine Sculpture·Dust Shadow Flower in the garden.

Lu Ran intended to have Old Master Lu be back online and rejoin the battle ranks.

Activating the Dust Shadow Flower Divine Sculpture could also bring great convenience to Lu Ran!

The Evil Mirror Magic could only reach a particular place, but the Dust Shadow Divine Technique's teleportation destination could be a place or a person!

Lu Ran only needed to leave his unique space marking on someone.

Exceedingly convenient.

And incredibly cool!

Lu Ran could hardly resist wanting to experiment with it thoroughly...

When he returned to Tianya Residence again, it was already late at night, and the three Heavenly Realm Great Powers in the hall had long since left.

Lu Ran ignored that and went to the bedroom, collapsing onto the soft bed, and while the Martial Emperor was still advancing, Lu Ran activated all the Dust Shadow Stone Sculptures and Ghost Talisman Doll Evil Sculptures in the garden.

Rock it.

I will inevitably end up being a fool.

Owing more is not a worry~

He canceled all the skills, immersed in thick fog, and his eyes gradually became unfocused...

Days and nights passed, alternating.

When Lu Ran's mind cleared, the bedroom was pitch dark, indicating it was nighttime.

"Hmm?" Lu Ran suddenly turned his head to look beside him.

This time, he didn't arrogantly ignore the other party, for the strength of the person beside him was something he could not disregard!

"Ruyi?" Lu Ran finally reacted, the room was only dark, but the swirling fog had dispersed.

"Long time no see." In the darkness, a cool voice was heard.

Lu Ran had just activated the Evil Technique·Evil Recognition to take a look at her, but she lowered her hand to cover his eyes.

"Ruyi...umm." Lu Ran's words were cut off as his lips were kissed.

Lu Ran: ???

No!

This...this this...

Are you sure you're the real Ruyi? Since when has my noble and aloof Immortal Jiang ever been so proactive?

Of course, despite the confusion, Lu Ran didn't remain stunned.

He responded decisively...

After a long while, Jiang Ruyi finally moved her face away, breathing lightly, but the hand covering his eyes still didn't move away.

Lu Ran also adjusted his breathing and softly said, "Ruyi?"

"Hmm." Immortal Jiang buried her face in his neck and softly said, "Long time no see."

This was the second time she had said such words.

Lu Ran was a bit puzzled: "Counting exactly, we've only been apart for a month, right?"

In the past, during closed-door cultivation and various battles, not seeing each other for two or three months was common.

But this is...

Lu Ran suddenly realized.

Dao Heart!

For a Human Clan cultivator to break through during the peak period, this is what is needed.

For enlightenment, the cultivator needs to repeat and consolidate deeply over and over again!

To some extent, at the moment Lu Ran just ascended to the Heavenly Realm, it was also a moment when he deeply resented the God Demons in his heart!

The room was silent.

After Lu Ran asked, she did not speak again.

The emotions of the Heavenly Realm Great Power naturally affected the surrounding environment, and Lu Ran also sensed her slight grievance.

Lu Ran couldn't help but curse himself inwardly!

He reached out to wrap her body, softly saying, "Little Ruyi, did you miss me?"

The person in his arms remained silent.

"Oh~ don't cry!" Lu Ran hurriedly said.

Jiang Ruyi: ???

Who is crying?

"Quick, wipe your tears." Lu Ran took the opportunity to pull down her hand covering his eyes.

"Ha." Jiang Ruyi was simultaneously angry and amused.

How are you so skilled at speaking nonsense and falsely accusing people?

"Oh? Are you smiling!" Lu Ran flipped over, propping himself on both sides of her head, looking down at his girlfriend who was amused to anger, "I saw it, oh!"

Jiang Ruyi rolled her eyes and turned her head to look aside.

This scene felt somewhat familiar.

The difference was, a month ago, under the strict hierarchy of the God Demon system, she was overwhelmed by someone's terrifying pressure, her body and mind gently trembling.

Now, she was no longer a weakling struggling to breathe.

She could have her emotions, no longer a small boat swaying in the storm, rising and falling with his moods.

This feeling...

It doesn't seem as good as imagined?

"Congratulations on ascending to the Heavenly Realm." Lu Ran said softly.

In the pitch-black room, Jiang Ruyi couldn't see anything, which made the young man's gentle words even clearer to her ears.

She turned her head back, looking upward: "Yes, finally."

Lu Ran smiled: "You've passed the last hurdle. From now on, you'll advance faster than me."

Jiang Ruyi remained silent.

She knew that Lu Ran was different from everyone else. Despite being the God Demons' master, he couldn't merge with any Stone Sculpture.

Because the Inheritance Contract binding Lu Ran was with the Divine Immortal Goat.

To this day, Lord Immortal Goat hadn't mentioned anything about merging.

Lu Ran tacitly kept silent as well.

"It won't be long before I can cultivate you to the Second Level of the Heavenly Realm!" This isn't just empty talk; Lu Ran is quite confident.

Three grand words: Tong Tian Dai!

Four grand words: Records to Check!

Just that arrogant~

Lu Ran joked with a smile, "By then, you mustn't bully me."

Jiang Ruyi also laughed, just like a month ago, she slowly raised her hand, her fingertips gently brushing across Lu Ran's brow, "That's not certain."

Lu Ran: "Ah?"

Jiang Ruyi, with a gentle smile, softly said, "Afraid now?"

"Not necessarily." Lu Ran's expression was peculiar, "If you misbehave, I'll lock you up in the Sculpture Garden forever."

Jiang Ruyi: "..."

"There, it'd be like a small dark room, not knowing what's happening outside," Lu Ran's face slowly leaned in, threatening, "You'll stay lonely inside, for an eternity."

Jiang Ruyi also had a peculiar look: "Then... I'll jump around inside, making your head buzz endlessly?"

Lu Ran was bewildered.

Thought he was vicious enough, yet there was someone more skilled?

Indeed!

The closest people know exactly how to hurt you most!

"Hehe~" Jiang Ruyi chuckled lightly, but before she could say anything more, someone's lips had already descended.

Where you suffer a loss, naturally, you'll reclaim it there...

A night without further words.

Around the Tianya Residence, the immortal jasmine trees mingled with a faint fragrance.

The branches and leaves swayed in the wind, occasionally making pleasant rustling sounds.

The next morning.

Lu Ran seemed to still be asleep, but he had actually entered the spiritual world, checking his Sculpture Garden.

Now, Luoshen's stone sculpture and Martial Emperor's stone sculpture were both ready.

The divine sculpture of Dust Shadow and the evil sculpture of Ghost Talisman Doll had also reached the First Level of the Heavenly Realm, waiting to be devoured by their future masters.

Lu Ran was filled with a sense of accomplishment!

Think back to the Mountain Realm, how difficult was it to nurture a sea realm stone sculpture?

A thousand strands of pure Holy Spirit Energy were required to promote a sea realm stone sculpture by a small rank.

Now that Lu Ran had ascended to the Heavenly Realm, having finally reached the Heavenly Realm, a thousand strands of Holy Spirit Energy were nothing!

Earlier, Lord Immortal Goat had repeatedly stated the Heavenly Realm battlefield was rich in resources...

Lu Ran had truly been taught a lesson!

Filled with emotions, he agreed with the Martial Emperor and Luoshen that after building bodies for the two, he would exit the park.

Lu Ran opened his sleepy eyes, cautiously turned to look, and found that the Immortal Lord was still asleep.

Not daring to make a move, he began to ponder in secret.

About the composition of the Ran Sect team, a five-member group led by Deng Yuxiang should have enough firepower.

As long as they don't encounter large-scale troop assaults, there shouldn't be many surprises.

To avoid surprises, a prophet is indispensable!

Now comes the question, should he call on Old Man Bai Yanhui or Chang Shengen?

Though both were of the Sea Realm, they weren't required to fight, and under the team's protection, there shouldn't be any big issues.

"Hmm..." Lu Ran mused for a moment and finally decided to let Elder Bai go.

At the very least, Bai Yanhui could turn invisible!

"Hmm?" Jiang Ruyi opened her sleepy eyes, her gaze still a bit confused.

Lu Ran snapped back to reality, apologetically saying, "Did I wake you?"

"Hmm~" Jiang Ruyi clearly hadn't fully awoken, her voice soft and waxy, quite amusing.

Lu Ran couldn't help but laugh.

Jiang Ruyi obviously heard it, her cheeks slightly blushing, softly saying, "What were you thinking about, so absorbed?"

"The team..." Lu Ran briefly explained, then continued, "What do you think, how should we choose the scout for the team?"

Yan Shuangzi is the true form of the Evil Dog, with extremely strong senses, but hasn't yet learned the invisibility skill from the Greedy Wolf.

Golden Sparrow is the true form of the Nine Nether Sparrow, able to turn invisible, but those sharp bird-like eyes belong to Huang Que there...

The top choices for scouts faced the same dilemma.

When Gods and Demons split, evidently, they took what they wanted for themselves.

They left nothing for the other side...

Unlike other Gods and Demons, whose similar skills both possessed.

"Among the Ran Sect disciples, there are quite a few Sea Realm powers," Jiang Ruyi analyzed, "Should we choose someone with solid qualities to inherit the Divine Sculpture of the Witch Crow?"

Yes, the Witch Crow Sect!

Despite the Witch Crow being just a seventh-class god, its skills were complete, sharing nothing with the opposing Evil Demon-Golden Winged Bat.

The Witch Crow Sect could turn invisible and had sharp bird-like eyes.

Indeed, there was a Witch Crow disciple-Wu Huan in the Ran Sect, but he was only of the River Realm, and more importantly, his overall quality wasn't high.

Lu Ran thought for a moment and asked, "Lady of the Flame Gate, do you have any suitable candidates?"

Jiang Ruyi replied without hesitation, "Shangguan Hongfu from Cloud Sea Cliff, Wei Yun from the Pear Garden Sect, the gourmet master from the Forbidden City, Zhu Haining from Jingxian Mountain, Tianya Mingyue Twin Island Masters from the Thousand Boat Alliance...

They are all Sea Realm powers, among them are warriors selected one in ten thousand, with exceptionally high overall quality."

Each name instantly dragged Lu Ran back to the days of battle in the Mountain Realm.

Jiang Ruyi clearly knew the subordinates like the back of her hand.

Lu Ran was one who conquered lands, expanding territory, while Jiang Ruyi behind him was the one who protected and managed the sect for him.

"If you could relax the conditions a bit..."

Jiang Ruyi pondered for a moment and continued, "Yue Yi under Wang Longxiang of Longxiang Valley, Hou Yun under He Qifeng of the Forbidden City, these two have excellent overall quality.

Hou Yun is even one of Da Xia's geniuses, only their talents were insufficient, and they could not advance to the Sea Realm."

Lu Ran nodded slightly, recalling the advice of Yu Changsheng.

Keep something up your sleeve!

Naturally trustworthy and loyal to the Ran Sect, these are the preferred choices.

So,

Who should receive this heaven-defying opportunity to become a god?

...

Chapter 879: God Does Not Permit?

In the morning, a silver figure slowly descended outside Tianya Residence.

He sported a neat short hairstyle with a dignified appearance and upright posture, dressed in a dashing silver suit, holding a silver spear, exuding a heroic presence.

Such a brave figure even made the members of the Shadow Guard Team on watch secretly take notice.

"Evil Shadow Guardian." Wei Yun held his spear and saluted, greeting him.

Beside the tunnel entrance, Yan Shuangzi crossed her arms in front of her body, leaning against the stone wall, watching the courageous man, secretly admiring his luck.

Strength, realm, and overall qualities were indeed a huge bonus.

But the words loyalty and righteousness are the true keys.

From this perspective, the Liuyun Hall Master Wei Yun reaching here is not entirely due to luck.

But rather, because of his coloration.

"Go in, the Sect Master and Lady are waiting for you." Yan Shuangzi slightly tilted her head, indicating the entrance to the Tianya Residence tunnel.

"Dare I ask Evil Shadow Guardian, why has the Sect Master summoned me here..."

Yan Shuangzi remained silent, coldly staring at the man.

Wei Yun paused momentarily and saluted Yan Shuangzi once more, placing the Divine Weapon spear at the entrance before stepping into Tianya Residence.

Walking through the not-so-long tunnel, he arrived at the hall.

In the hall, there were four people.

On the top side, on Taishi chairs beside the Eight Immortals table, sat the young Sect Master and Lady.

On the side chairs below the hall, Wu Xiao sat silently.

In the corner, there was a Xuan Shuang Guard nervously boiling tea.

Wei Yun sympathized with her situation.

Even though the Sect Master had a gentle smile, the hierarchical system of the Divine Demon was extremely strict, and all weak beings in the room had difficulty even breathing.

"Sect Master, Lady, Martial Sect Master!" Wei Yun respectfully saluted, embodying the aura of an ancient general.

Upon mentioning ancient generals, Lu Ran suddenly thought... Wei Yun, what a good name?

Wei from Wei Qing, Yun from Zhao Yun?

Good fellow~

Unbelievable once you think about it, the name is so domineering.

The room became silent, and Wei Yun naturally sensed the Sect Master and Lady's gaze on him, seemingly carrying a sense of scrutiny, escalating his pressure.

Wei Yun had no idea, Lu Ran was not doing it deliberately, but was lost in thought, comparing names.

Until Leng Xushuang served hot tea, Lu Ran returned to his senses.

Looking at the man below the hall, he finally spoke: "Is Hall Master Wei of Sea Realm Second Rank?"

"Yes!" Wei Yun responded, his voice deep.

Lu Ran sighed inwardly.

Wei Yun, as Martial Emperor's only best friend, once had the same realm as Wu Xiao—Sea Realm Peak.

Back then, when Wu Xiao raised his banner, Wei Yun was also one of the only three Sea Realm Peak powers within Pear Garden Sect.

Unfortunately, those who ascended to the Heavenly Realm were highly likely to undergo "Deviation".

Before there was Sword Ridge Peak Master Wang Hanchuan, after there was Wuji Peak Master Tu Feng.

Lu Ran could not let Wei Yun continue to serve the god Martial Artist; if Wei Yun truly ascended, he could also communicate with the Martial Artist during the breakthrough process.

At that time, the actions of Ran Sect would be crucial as Lu Ran's own secret might be exposed upon questioning by the God.

Therefore, all the Sea Realm Hall Masters of Pear Garden Sect turned to Lu Ran, venerating Martial Emperor.

"Do you blame me for once being at Sea Realm Peak?" Lu Ran suddenly asked.

Wei Yun shook his head: "As a disciple of Pear Garden Sect, affiliated with Ran Sect, following the orders of the Martial Sect Master and the will of Master Lu is my duty."

Jiang Ruyi picked up her teacup, glancing lightly at the man below the hall.

The Phoenix Dress of Nine Heavens she wore gave her a satisfactory answer that Wei Yun was not lying.

Wei Yun continued: "At Holy Spirit Mountain, Yun, has long seen through the ugly face of God Demon. Wuji Peak Master was manipulated and led by the God during the ascension to the Heavenly Realm, causing great disaster.

The actions of the Sect Master are paramount for all eternity, allowing no sloppiness."

Listening to one phrase after another, Jiang Ruyi felt very satisfied, and simply drank a sip of tea.

Seeing Jiang Ruyi's demeanor, Lu Ran settled his mind and said: "During this period, your brothers have been accompanying me in the Heavenly Realm battle.

Now he possesses a Heavenly Realm First Level physique, capable of being the foundation for team building."

Wei Yun lowered his head, his tiger eyes suddenly lit up!

Indeed, how could the Sect Master, being so busy, spare time to call him over for a chat?

Sure enough, just listen to Lu Ran continue: "Ran Sect is in need of people. Would you like to join his small team and venture into the Heavenly Realm together?"

"Disciple obeys!" Wei Yun did not hesitate at all.

Lu Ran: "..."

Why do you obediently comply?

That is the Heavenly Realm!

Sure, your martial arts are superb! You are also a First-class God disciple, but that is the Heavenly Realm Battlefield!

Lu Ran was quite speechless and subconsciously looked at Martial Emperor.

Wu Xiao remained expressionless, sitting silently like a soulless shell.

Essentially, Wu Xiao and Yu Changsheng were of the same kind, yet their states of existence were vastly different, truly puzzling why.

Lu Ran shook his head and said: "Your team's members include Nightmare Guardian, Martial Emperor, Luoshen General, Elder Lu Bai, two Heavenly Generals Yan Bai..."

One name after another stirred Wei Yun's spirit!

Looking far and wide, it was all Majestic Heaven Realm!

It seemed only Bai Yanhui was a Sea Realm individual? Joining such a group was indeed a great honor.

Wei Yun was very sure that the Sect Master had selected him personally from among the three thousand Ran Sect disciples.

Three thousand to one!

What an endorsement!

What kind of honor is this?

Lu Ran continued, "From the composition of personnel, Hall Master Wei can also see the intensity of the Heavenly Realm battlefield."

Wei Yun's heart sank, his head lowered even further: "Yes."

"Hall Master Wei's strength and realm are slightly lacking."

Lu Ran suddenly changed his tone and continued, "I plan to give Hall Master Wei a Divine Sculpture, so you can continue your cultivation and advance while transitioning to be a scout. What do you think of this, Hall Master Wei?"

Wei Yun's breath hitched!

Divine... Divine Sculpture?

Like Wu Xiao, becoming a god?

Lu Ran silently drank tea, giving the other person ample time.

Until the strong voice of Wei Yun came confidently from the hall below: "I, Yun, will devote all efforts to honor the Sect Master's kindness."

"Good." Lu Ran looked at Wu Xiao and smiled, "Cut the contract threads, but be gentle with your brother."

Wu Xiao immediately stood up, came next to Wei Yun, and placed a large hand on his head.

The believers of the Human Clan, their status lowly.

If they dare to oppose the gods and take the initiative to tear up the contract, they would suffer severe punishment.

But if the god takes the initiative to tear the contract, the consequences are not so dire. Wu Xiao seemed like a jailer, opening the shackles and cages for Wei Yun, letting him leave safely.

Of course, Wei Yun would still suffer some hurt, but compared to it, the damage is almost negligible.

"Ugh." Wei Yun groaned, his body slightly swayed.

Wu Xiao's big hand moved down to grasp Wei Yun's shoulder.

One raised his head, one lowered his gaze.

Two heroic men with similar styles, their gazes entwined.

Lu Ran watched with great interest!

It's rare for the Martial Emperor to show a bit of emotion; it seems that he still has things he cares about.

Just hidden rather deeply.

Pitiful Liu Huo guard, and that moth-to-flame Red Cicada Hall Master Qin Hongchan...

Your desired Ruyi bridegroom is about to be taken away by Wei Yun~

Lu Ran thought secretly, as the Martial Emperor retreated, he stepped forward and unfolded a huge remnant shadow of a god.

Wei Yun looked up, only to realize what path the Sect Leader had arranged for him.

Seven-class God·Witch Crow!

In Wei Yun's mind, the Witch Crow Divine Technique immediately flashed by.

The god technique·Witch Crow that transforms the body into a crow; the divine technique·Witch Pupil that enables night vision, seeing through fog, frost, snow, and dust.

The output skill·Witch Feather that sprinkles feathers and pierces enemies; the skill·Witch Shadow Concealment that hides form and energy fluctuations.

Additionally, the skill·Witch Cry that releases sound waves to cause real harm to enemies.

And the rather strong Substitute Technique·Witch Shadow Replacement!

As he thought, Lu Ran already carried the Witch Crow remnant shadow and signed the Inheritance Contract with Wei Yun.

Peeking out the embarrassing fact, the Divine Sculpture of Witch Crow in the garden is merely at Sea Realm·First Rank.

The Holy Spirit Energy to nurture this Divine Sculpture was leaked a bit from the fingers of several fake gods at Heavenly Realm-Second Rank in the garden and directly gifted to the Witch Crow.

Hmm... It's okay!

Returning to the Heavenly Realm battlefield, Lu Ran can easily cultivate this Divine Sculpture to the First Level of Heaven Realm.

Moreover, Wei Yun is currently just at Sea Realm Second Rank, the integration is still far off.

"Pop!"

Having signed the contract, Lu Ran imitated the Martial Emperor's action, likewise patting Wei Yun's shoulder:

"I have some matters in the Mountain Realm, will stay for a few days. You should quickly adapt to the new sect's divine technique and prepare well for battle."

"Disciple obeys!" Wei Yun said in a deep voice.

Lu Ran turned back to look at Wu Xiao: "For the next few days, be his sparring partner. Gradually increase the combat intensity and allow Wei Yun to adapt quickly."

"Yes!" Wu Xiao responded immediately.

"Go." Lu Ran smiled and nodded, watching the brothers depart, then casually said, "Elder Lu, sorry for the wait."

An elder in a gray robe passed by Wu Wei, walked into the hall: "Sect Leader."

Lu Ran's expression turned serious: "Elder Lu still cannot perform spells?"

Lu Yuan shook his head, his voice worn and hoarse: "The gods do not permit."

Lu Ran snorted: "In that case, Elder Lu should also 'die'."

Lu Yuan's cloudy eyes, quietly watching Lu Ran.

He certainly did not believe that Lu Ran wanted to take his life, although... Lu Ran feeds on dead souls, and Lu Yuan knew well that his own soul is very delicious.

Contained within, an inexhaustible amount of Holy Spirit Energy...

"Later, Elder Lu will follow me to the Heaven Realm to search for the Divine Mountain, plead to the gods to ask Dust Shadow Flower for mercy, and plead for a way to live."

Lu Ran spoke as he turned towards the Eight Immortals Table: "On the way, Elder Lu will die at the hands of Faceless Jade Venerable."

Lu Yuan was aware and gently nodded.

Lu Ran picked up the teacup from the table, continued: "I have already prepared the Dust Shadow Flower Stone Sculpture of the Heavenly Realm for Elder Lu."

Lu Yuan respectfully bowed: "Thank you, Sect Leader!"

"Gulp, gulp..."

Lu Ran drank the tea in one go, wiped his mouth with the back of his hand, his eyes ice cold.

The gods want to let you fend for yourself, not allowing you to cast spells?

No problem.

I permit it.

...

Chapter 880: Liang Ye

The eighteenth of the twelfth month, night.

A hazy moonlight shines upon an ice lake surrounded by a snow forest.

Beside the lake, a young man wrapped in a fox fur cloak sits quietly under a tree, gazing at the frozen surface of the lake where a woman with a long sword in hand stands.

She too is dressed in a white fox fur cloak and dances lightly in the moonlight.

Her immortal silhouette sways like drifting wind and returning snow, melding with the icy landscape.

Lu Ran gazes intently at Jiang Ruyi.

To be precise, at her physical body.

In the past few days, Jiang Ruyi successively shattered the Jade Talisman and the Ghost Talisman Doll stone sculpture, fused the Divine Sculpture and Evil Sculpture into one, transforming into a Pseudo God statue that now resides in Lu Ran's mind.

To commemorate this special day, Lu Ran brought her to one of the Seven Views of the Holy Spirit—Ice Heart Lake.

According to Lu Yuan and his disciple, the little snow here is enchanting enough to intoxicate the heart.

Before coming to Ice Heart Lake, Lu Ran had already visited five of the Seven Views, naturally not doubting Lu Yuan and his disciple's sense of beauty.

But this time, Lu Ran truly had something to say.

Compared to the Moonlit Frost Forest and the gentle snow over the ice lake, that stunning figure dancing in the center of the lake captivated him even more.

"Clap! Clap! Clap!"

Suddenly, applause echoed softly from the tranquil lakeside.

"Once more, once more... uh." Lu Ran wanted to see the woman dance another piece but before he could finish his words, the moonlit fairy suddenly turned her gaze towards him.

The greedy words swallowed back, Lu Ran suppressed them.

Jiang Ruyi's eyes held a trace of reproach as she flew over gracefully: "It's late, we should go back to rest. We still need to set off for the Heavenly Realm battlefield tomorrow."

The next time Lu Ran rests, who knows when it will be.

"Oh," Lu Ran reluctantly replied.

Standing before Lu Ran, Jiang Ruyi lifted her hand to straighten his collar: "Be good, next time when we return to the Holy Spirit Mountain, I'll accompany you to the last of the Seven Views."

"That won't do."

"Hmm?" Jiang Ruyi slightly raised her eyebrow.

Lu Ran, apologetically, said: "Little Yuanxi already booked the Moon Shadow Heavenly Pool early on, I can't break my promise."

Jiang Ruyi fully understood: "When do you plan to take her?"

"When Little Yuanxi ascends to the Heavenly Realm~" Lu Ran casually embraced the Immortal in his arms, gazing up at the snowflakes drifting in the wind.

At this mid point of the twelfth month, Little Yuanxi has already ascended to the Third Rank of the Sea Realm, the ascent to the Heavenly Realm is within reach.

Since his ascension, Lu Ran feels his journey of striving has newfound anticipation.

Once he could only bestow stone sculptures, assisting others in accelerating their cultivation advancement.

Now, it's different!

Lu Ran can personally train those closest and dearest, helping them ascend to the Second Level of the Heavenly Realm, or even the Third!

This sense of accomplishment in constructing gods by his own hands is something outsiders cannot easily experience.

The true Divine Development Plan!

Before him, Little Ruyi, the From Dragon Guardian returning from the deep sea, and the slaughtering Heavenly General returning from the Soul-locking Mountain, are Lu Ran's next major focus for cultivation.

These pseudo deities are Lu Ran's future capital in challenging gods and demons.

"What are you thinking about?" A clear and cold voice suddenly reached his ear.

Lu Ran didn't respond, only slightly lowered his head, kissing her cold thin lips.

In the moonlight, by the ice lake.

The small snowflakes drifted gently, falling on their shoulders.

Curiously, someone spoiled the mood, mumbling ambiguously, "If I kiss your physical body, will you get jealous?"

Jiang Ruyi: ???

This flesh and blood figure was molded by her own hands, while its soul was crafted by the remnants of her god and demon shadow.

From inside to out, body and soul, all belong to Jiang Ruyi.

It can be considered one form of Jiang Ruyi's existence in the world.

Jealous, of what exactly?

"Nonsense," Jiang Ruyi expressed dissatisfaction, gently bumping Lu Ran's forehead with her own, her body gradually stiffening.

The divine and demon shadow separated from the physical body, the Divine Weapon·Cold Night Sword in her hand also turned into a pure energy body, merging with the divine and demon shadow, returning to the Sculpture Garden together.

"Hey? Don't go!" Lu Ran looked at the beautiful yet dull doll in his arms, knowing she returned to the Sculpture Garden.

"Poof~"

Indeed, the beauty in his embrace dissipated into specks of energy, with the wind.

The physical body, without a soul, also lost the necessary conditions to exist in the world.

Lu Ran's embrace was empty, leaving only a fox fur cloak behind.

Jiang Ruyi's stone sculpture image is adorned with the prestigious Magic Artifact·Phoenix Robe of Nine Heavens.

The demonic minions she summoned, naturally dressed in the Phoenix Robe image (energy transformation), the reason a cloak remained in Lu Ran's arms is that it was a genuine piece of clothing.

Specially pulled from the closet for this snow viewing, draped over her body by Jiang Ruyi.

"Tsk," Lu Ran clucked his tongue, holding onto the cloak.

His lady girlfriend isn't happy~

[Go home, sleep.] In his mind, Jiang Ruyi's voice sounded.

[I'll admire the snow a while longer... eh? Don't stomp your foot, no no no...] Lu Ran, covering his head with one hand, [I'm going home now.]

[Hmph~] Jiang Ruyi snorted, yet a smile appeared on her face.

After so many years, she finally found an effective way to straighten out Lu Ran.

No grand gestures required, just a gentle stomp of her foot.

With the lady girlfriend calming down, Lu Ran mumbled to himself: "A gentle confusion doesn't hurt the brain, the strength is just right~"

If possible, he wished the Immortal wouldn't tread on his mind, but rather directly upon his physical body... ahem.

Lu Ran shook his head to clear away the chaotic thoughts and quickly spread open his palm.

"Whew~"

A large, jet-black mystical flower blossomed in the center of his hand.

Dust Shadow Divine Skill·Other Shore Flower!

The blooming flower took on a shadowy form, enveloping Lu Ran within and rapidly closing its petals.

By the lakeside, the young man's silhouette vanished along with the flower bud.

Energy stirred up waves of wind, leaving only a few flakes of frost and snow dancing in the air.

The teleportation skills of a god and a demon each had their pros and cons.

Evil Mirror Demon Technique-Mirror Flower Moon, clearly required an additional step, first summoning a basic Ancient Bronze Mirror, then altering its properties to become a Landing Mirror.

Although the procedure was cumbersome, the Evil Mirror Clan opened a teleportation gate that could persist continuously.

In contrast, the Dust Shadow Sect's technique was a one-off deal, simple and swift but highly conspicuous.

After all, in Lu Ran's hand, it was a flower that bloomed, but for the teleportation destination, it unfolded into a sizeable teleportation array!

Meanwhile, in the mountain forest outside the Tianya Residence, a map resembling a dreamscape unfurled on the body of a woman.

Yan Shuangzi suddenly looked up and witnessed an awe-inspiring scene.

Ripples of energy flowed like sand slowly streaming, weaving together endless mountain ranges and ceaseless rivers.

In the midst of the magnificent scene, a figure appeared out of thin air, landing firmly.

"Master." Yan Shuangzi softly called as she looked at the elegantly dressed young man.

Clearly, Lu Ran's teleportation target wasn't a specific location, but rather a person!

He had long since left a spatial mark on Yan Shuangzi, and the exact location of teleportation depended on her whereabouts.

"No one is home, yet you're still on guard duty?" Lu Ran asked.

Yan Shuangzi slightly lowered her head, not saying a word.

After hesitating for a moment, Lu Ran said softly, "You're close to advancing to the peak, aren't you?"

Yan Shuangzi replied in a low voice, "I advanced to Sea Realm Fourth Rank on the seventh of August, still... still lacking a bit."

"It's been over three months, you're almost there." Lu Ran patted the woman's shoulder comfortingly, "Now, several soldiers of the Ran Sect are stuck at the peak. Who knows, maybe someone's enlightenment will help send you on your way."

Yan Shuangzi nodded silently.

Lu Ran turned towards the cave entrance, "The Heavenly Grade Evil Dog Evil Skill·Evil Shadow, is not as strong as we imagined. Our consciousness can indeed enter the avatar, no longer needing to control it from a third-person perspective, but..."

With that, Lu Ran sighed helplessly, "If the main body is a bit far from the avatar, it loses contact."

Trying to separate the realms, having the avatar live in the Human World or explore the Heavenly Realm Battlefield, was out of the question!

"Mm." Yan Shuangzi responded softly.

The Evil Dog Evil Skill·Evil Shadow, is essentially a decoy-type skill, just that Lu Yan and the others were of too high a power level, forcing the enemy-luring technique into a doppelganger art.

However potent a decoy may be, it couldn't escape the essence of the skill.

Nevertheless, Yan Shuangzi didn't feel too disappointed.

Unlike Lu Ran, she had never thought of having her avatar venture out alone; she wanted to perform missions together with it, protecting Lu Ran's side.

More perspectives meant more operational leverage, naturally.

"Silent Night prefers peace. After I leave tomorrow, don't let anyone disturb it." Lu Ran said standing at the bedroom door, turning slightly to speak.

"Yes." Yan Shuangzi replied softly.

The Divine Weapon that suppressed the Silent Night Blade is most likely in the hands of the Divine Demon, to avoid any mishaps. Lu Ran had to temporarily keep the Silent Night Blade at home in the study.

Not another word was said through the night, and dawn broke the next morning.

Lu Ran donned a green rain cape and a blue reed hat, transforming himself into a river wanderer.

He then put on a Blood Crystal Mask covering the lower half of his face, changing the classical martial arts style into an Eastern fantasy style, and headed towards Heaven's Edge.

A squad with power to annihilate awaited him for some time.

"Whoa~" Lu Ran glanced over the uniformly dressed crowd, feeling even more accomplished.

Ran Sect warriors with unified attire, all wearing green rain capes, blue reed hats, and a Tianchen Steel mask showing only their eyes.

The Nightmare Guardian as the squad leader, along with Martial Emperor, Luoshen General, Yan General, and Bai General, making a total of five output units.

Lu Yuan was the team's transporter, Bai Yanhui served as the team's early warning machine, and Wei Yun was the scout.

Among them, the latter three were their true bodies, not mere decoy bodies.

Bai Yanhui and Wei Yun, though inheritors of the Caster and Witch Crow, respectively, were both Second Rank Sea Realm, not yet possessing the conditions to fuse with Stone Sculptures.

Lu Yuan was a Heavenly Realm Great Power, but after Lu Ran signed a contract with him and the Divine Sculpture·Dust Shadow Flower, he didn't let the elder merge with the Stone Sculpture.

As the Stone Sculpture inheritor on the side of the Gods, Lu Yuan couldn't summon minions with flesh and blood.

Fortunately, Qin Yanzhi had reached the Sea Realm Peak, as the inheritor of the Evil Mirror Demon Sculpture, once he ascended to the Heavenly Realm, he could cooperate with Lu Yuan.

"Are you all ready?" Lu Ran asked with a smile, confident in this combination.

Headed by the Big Nightmare, everyone nodded in acknowledgment.

"There are quite a few people, so get into the gourd first." Lu Ran sent the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd out with one hand and summoned the Ancient Bronze Mirror with the other.

Since they were acting covertly, he naturally wouldn't open the Other Shore Flower.

Moments later, Lu Ran grasped the Treasure Gourd that flew back and took a step into the Landing Mirror.

Heavenly Realm, here I come... huh?

Lu Ran's expression froze.

In the Sculpture Garden, Jiang Ruyi slightly furrowed her brows as a giant stone hand descended to grip the stone-formed Divine Weapon·Cold Night Sword at her waist.

"Buzz!!"

The Cold Night Sword vibrated so intensely it caused Jiang Ruyi to hum along with it.

A voice full of surprise imprinted itself into Jiang Ruyi's mind:

[Master! I... I sensed that Divine Weapon!]