

Old Gods 911

Chapter 911: East Wind! East Wind!

Cultivation knows no age, and in the blink of an eye, it was early July.

On the third day, at the Heaven's Edge in the Holy Spirit Mountain Realm, a Landing Mirror was opened, from which emerged two figures, one old and one young.

"Boom!"

It happened to be a time when the sky was thick with dark clouds, with flashes of lightning and peals of thunder.

Torrential rain poured down on the two of them, and while the young man in a raincoat had no reaction, the old man was overjoyed, reaching out to catch the raindrops.

Lu Ran had a slight smile on his face as he looked at Huangfu Zhao, who had already changed into a green raincoat and bamboo hat.

It had been four months since Mr. Huangfu became a disciple under Lu Ran.

In the past few months, Huangfu Zhao had returned to the Holy Spirit Mountain twice, but unfortunately, every time he arrived at the ends of the earth, the place was shrouded in fog.

The Fake Gods of the Ran Sect were advancing one after another, and their momentum could not be stopped at all!

But this time, the ends of the earth were finally fog-free.

Even more thrilling for Huangfu Zhao was this torrential rain!

Lu Ran could totally understand him, for the Heavenly Realm Battlefield was perpetually unchanging, with no sunrise or sunset, no spring, summer, autumn, or winter.

All that could be seen was the thick sea of clouds in the sky.

Now, seeing this torrential rain, who wouldn't be excited?

"Hahaha!"

Huangfu Zhao actually burst into laughter, taking off the bamboo hat on his head, letting the rain fall on his weathered face.

Lu Ran simply stood silently, watching this warrior over fifty years old frolicking in the rain.

He neither sang nor danced; could this be considered frolicking?

For the mature and steady Huangfu Zhao, it was.

That ecstatic laughter was truly infectious, and it made the smile on Lu Ran's face gradually turn a bit bitter.

Humans are always labeled as greedy.

Lu Ran did not deny this; he was a person deeply obsessed, greedy enough to want to poke a hole in heaven.

But in this cruel world, there were also a few who desired not much.

Sunshine, rain, and snow.

To live with dignity.

"Young Master." Huangfu Zhao turned and put on his bamboo hat, cupping his hands, "I was presumptuous."

"What's presumptuous about this?" Lu Ran took his bamboo hat off again, "Sir, just stay here and start addressing your breakthrough matters."

This time, Lu Ran returned to the Sect because Huangfu Zhao had indicated he had touched upon the bottleneck of a breakthrough.

And on Lu Ran's end, after more than four months of cultivation, he was about to complete the third round of reforging and transforming his physical body with Holy Spirit Energy.

Perhaps, the promotion of Mr. Huangfu might also be the opportunity for Lu Ran's breakthrough.

"Soaked enough in the rain, there's a stone cave below." Lu Ran stomped his foot, "Sir can go there for seclusion."

"Yes." Huangfu Zhao accepted the bamboo hat.

"Then I'll be off first..." Lu Ran's words halted as his figure suddenly flashed, instantaneously teleporting down several meters into the cave.

In his sight, a woman was sitting cross-legged in meditation.

On her knees rested a heavy hammer.

"Oh?" Lu Ran raised an eyebrow slightly, "Isn't that my big sister Xian'er, who is stuck at the Sea Realm Peak?"

"Uh." Si Xianxian shrunk her neck, timidly raising her eyes to the visitor.

The young man was still that young man.

The smile, still so detestable.

But the strict hierarchy made it difficult for the Yangyang Sea to face the Majestic Heaven Realm.

"Has Ruyi returned?" Si Xianxian mustered the courage to ask.

Lu Ran appeared strange: "Your first sentence is about that? How do I remember you are my protector?"

Si Xianxian pouted.

Mentioning the word protector made her feel extremely uncomfortable.

The Nightmare Guardian was the first to accompany Lu Ran to venture into the Heavenly Realm and later became the captain of the first team; the Dragon Guardian was next, joining the second team, serving the Lady of the Flame Gate diligently.

A few months ago, Cheng Li of the third team of the Ran Sect and the Evil Shadow Guardian had also become scouts in the team, worthy of the name guardian.

Only the Mad Immortal Guardian remained in the Sect!

Even He Yingcai and Wang Longxiang, these Divine Generals, had ascended to the Heavenly Realm successively!

Si Xianxian even felt she was like a stay-behind child...

Well, fortunately, there was the Divine Seeking General to back her up.

Poor Seeking Dad, his wife Luo Ying went off to the Heavenly Realm early to work hard; their pair of children had long been sent back to the Human World·Luoxian Mountain by the Sect Leader to grow up healthy and happy.

Only Seeking Dad was left, living on the island in isolation, it was a good month if he could see his wife once...

"All three teams are on missions in the Heavenly Realm, they come back about once a month; you do the math yourself." Lu Ran snorted.

"Oh."

"Besides, you should return to your own seclusion room to practice; Mr. Huangfu is coming here." Lu Ran added.

Si Xianxian pouted, reluctantly standing up, suddenly thinking of something: "Oh, Young Master."

"Hmm?"

"Last time when the Lady returned, I heard her mentioning that when I ascend to the Heavenly Realm, the Young Master only plans to let me replace the Heavenly God Sculpture?"

"What, isn't one god enough for you?" Lu Ran joked.

Si Xianxian moved cautiously forward, resisting the terrifying pressure: "Unlike the others, who are god and demon two sides of one, I... that Evil Sculpture of the Angry Sea Flame Flood Dragon, why are you keeping it?"

Keeping it for what?

In the Da Xia god and demon system, only Lie Tian·Angry Sea Flame Flood Dragon had the method for cross-level slaughter, of course, I had to keep something in reserve.

Si Xianxian whispered: "Mainly without the Evil Sculpture, I have no physical body!

How else can I join the Lady's ch...ch... caravan, join her team, go through fire and water for her?"

Lu Ran: "..."

I cultivated you with all my heart just for you to climb into my fiancée's bed?

Is that reasonable!

Si Xianxian put on a pitiful look, tugging Lu Ran's sleeve: "Young Master~~~~"

Lu Ran looked at a particular Xian'er acting up without pressure, commenting: "It's useless, you aren't even worth a single tail of the Ghost Moon Fox."

Si Xianxian: ???

I really want to beat you to death!

"Phew~"

The ribbon around Lu Ran's waist suddenly extended a corner and knocked the girl's finger away.

Si Xianxian: "..."

Even the magic artifact is bullying me?!

How could Si Xianxian know? She felt aggrieved, but Smoke and Mist Silk felt even more wronged!

Placed on anyone else, it would elevate their status and make the owner of the magic artifact ascend to the ranks of the immortals.

Even if tied to a dog, it could turn the dog into the Howling Celestial Dog!

But in the hands of a certain wanderer from the martial world, the flying ribbon became just an ordinary belt.

Such a waste!

[When the Ran Sect slays the God Demon, the Angry Sea Flame Flood Dragon will be the first.] Lu Ran suddenly transmitted his voice.

"Oh?" Si Xianxian's beautiful eyes lit up.

[At that time, you can devour the true Evil God and possess everything it has.] Lu Ran transmitted his voice again.

Si Xianxian was overjoyed, her excitement causing her to clench her fists.

What does it mean to surpass those who came before?

Nightmare, From Dragon, Evil Shadow... so what if you are leading now?

The first to truly seize the "Divine Position" will be me, the Mad Immortal Guardian!

Wahahahaha~

Lu Ran patted Si Xianxian's shoulder: [In the plan envisioned by me and Mr. Conglong, it was designed this way, but we still need to discuss it with Lord Immortal Sheep.]

The Evil God·Angry Sea Flame Flood Dragon is indeed very powerful, with extremely terrifying output!

But this race is, after all, low in intelligence and extremely irritable and quick to anger! They easily fall into various schemes, making them very suitable for the Ran Sect to act against.

And for Lu Ran and others, capturing the enemy's strongest point of output at the very beginning of the real battle should be more beneficial for the subsequent tasks.

Of course, all of this is preliminary planning.

The specific situation still requires the help of Lord Immortal Sheep to oversee.

[Do not leak this information.] Lu Ran looked at the joyous Xian'er sister and immediately warned her.

[Oh, don't worry! I always go about on my own, without anyone to talk to. Even if I wanted to leak it, there's no one to tell!]

[Haven't you been playing with Little Yuanxi lately?]

[She is more lonely than I am.] Si Xianxian pouted again.

"Alright, go cultivate." Lu Ran said, flashing back to Tianya Residence.

Qiao Yuansi is already at the Fourth Rank of the Sea Realm. Before reaching the peak, the Fake Gods only need to work hard in cultivation, so he could imagine the little one's diligence.

"Phew~"

A group of swords and sabers flew away in succession, automatically heading to the study.

Lu Ran took off his clothes and casually hung his raincoat on the corner of the folding screen.

Smoke and Mist Silk did not leave.

The way a magic artifact observes the world is different from the Human Clan. Smoke and Mist Silk flew directly to the large wardrobe and opened the door.

Lu Ran blinked his eyes, stepping forward to follow.

He intended to choose some casual clothes for comfort, but just as he reached out, his wrist was bound by Smoke and Mist Silk.

"What is it?" Lu Ran sensed the force on his wrist.

Under the guidance of Smoke and Mist Silk, Lu Ran's hand moved horizontally and finally landed on a white robe.

Lu Ran took off the garment, finding this white robe exceedingly loose, especially the sleeves, which were exaggeratedly wide.

It somewhat resembled a Daoist robe.

"You want me to wear this?" Lu Ran turned to Smoke and Mist Silk.

Smoke and Mist Silk, filled with spirit, placed one end in front of Lu Ran's eyes, bobbing up and down as if nodding.

"Hehe." Lu Ran chuckled softly.

Alright.

Since I couldn't be part of your earlier growth, in the future, I'll pamper you as much as I can.

Lu Ran donned the white robe, feeling some discomfort with the oversized sleeves, and while raising his hand to examine it, he suddenly noticed Smoke and Mist Silk drifting behind him.

It flowed like a wisp of smoke and mist, tracing graceful arcs as it moved.

"Does this suit your taste now?" Lu Ran asked with a smile.

A section of Smoke and Mist Silk near his shoulder moved towards Lu Ran's cheek, gently touching it.

"Rumble!"

Thunder rumbled repeatedly, making Lu Ran wince.

Subsequently, he noticed a wisp of mist rising inside the room.

Lu Ran instantly flashed and appeared in the forest on the island, witnessing wisps of pale fog dragon rolls descend from the densely clouded sky, heading towards the end of the world.

Seeing this scene, he quickly ascended, looking towards the east.

In the pouring rain, Huangfu Zhao was kneeling at the edge of the cliff, head lowered, as the raindrops around him were blown wildly.

Lu Ran: !!!

Mr. Huangfu has indeed broken through his bottleneck!

He is the second in human history, following Qiao Wanjun, to reach the Third Level of the Majestic Heaven Realm since the arrival of the God Demon over forty years ago, isn't he?

Well... two months ago, the Big Nightmare also advanced to the Third Level of the Heavenly Realm.

But she ascended in the form of a Stone Sculpture, through plundering resources, rather than maintaining the blood and flesh form of the Human Clan to cultivate herself.

Therefore, Huangfu Zhao is truly the second "Human Clan."

Qiao Wanjun is Lu Ran's mother, and naturally, he views her through a thick lens of admiration.

But objectively speaking, Qiao Wanjun's sudden rise almost completely halted the subsequent growth of the Human Clan.

Now, under Lu Ran's tutelage, Huangfu Zhao has completely rid himself of the gods' control.

He is striding towards the zenith of the Human Clan!

Good! Excellent, wonderful...

Lu Ran flashed again and returned to the study in Tianya Residence, picking up the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd.

Time to cultivate!

Seize the east wind!

...

Chapter 912: The Immortal's Guidance

"Here! To the left, the left..."

In the basement of Tianya Residence, Lu Ran sat cross-legged, muttering to himself.

The mist brought about by Huangfu Zhao's advancement, whether in the scope of coverage or the terrifying Divine Power contained within, was something the members of the Ran Sect had neither heard of nor seen before.

In such an extremely unique environment, a cultivator progresses by leaps and bounds!

After more than ten days of rigorous cultivation, Lu Ran's results were quite gratifying, but he was always a fraction short.

The heart area!

Lu Ran noticed this issue early during the first two rounds of nourishing and transforming his body, where the pure Holy Spirit Energy extracted from his vast internal Divine Power was difficult to materialize on the left side of his chest.

The Holy Spirit Energy was uncontrollable!

Once it appeared, whether it stayed in place or wandered aimlessly depended entirely on fate.

"Tsk~" Lu Ran smacked his lips in discomfort.

He wanted the Holy Spirit Energy to fill his heart, but it appeared on the right side of his chest and then headed towards his right shoulder...

It's purely a mischievous child.

"Hoo~"

The Smoke and Mist Silk lightly brushed against Lu Ran's cheek, as if consoling him.

"Buzz~"

The small Blazing Phoenix in his arms gently trembled, expressing both solace and a willingness to assist.

Lu Ran held up the Treasure Gourd with both hands and poured it into his mouth.

"Gulp, gulp..."

In such a richly Divine Power-infused environment, Lu Ran drank deeply, giving an impression of extravagance.

Finally, another wisp of Holy Spirit Energy was purified out.

Lu Ran was invigorated, even though this wisp didn't manifest on the left side of his chest but appeared above his chest, at the Xuanji Acupoint.

What excited him more was that the Holy Spirit Energy seemed to be drifting downward!

Promising!

Promis... your grandpa!

Lu Ran's face stiffened as he sensed the gradually descending Holy Spirit Energy suddenly slam to a halt, then make a sharp U-turn, heading towards his neck.

What the heck?!

This can happen?

Lu Ran was dumbfounded for a moment; the Holy Spirit Energy stopped at his Adam's apple, nourished it for a moment, and then disappeared without a trace.

"Ha." Lu Ran laughed in exasperation and lay back directly.

However, lying flat was not an option.

The Smoke and Mist Silk cradled Lu Ran steadily and helped him sit back up.

Lu Ran: "..."

[The path of cultivation always gets harder.] The gentle voice entered Lu Ran's mind.

That was the voice of the Smoke and Mist Silk.

As silky as silk, it fluttered lightly through his mind, making even the air ripple gently.

The Artifact Spirit of the Smoke and Mist Silk wasn't in the form of a Human Clan member.

The Artifact Spirit was like light smoke and thin mist, mysterious and ethereal, completely identical to the material of the band itself. This counted as an object-type Artifact Spirit, filling a gap in Lu Ran's collection.

Lu Ran's Divine Weapon Blade Spirits all took Human Clan forms, even resembling Lu Ran himself.

This objectively demonstrated the close bond between the Divine Weapon and its wielder.

The Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd and the Black Jade Tiger Talisman were both Magic Artifacts with beast-shaped Artifact Spirits, respectively a small phoenix woven from golden fire lines, and a small black-as-ink tiger.

Since acquiring the Smoke and Mist Silk, Lu Ran also had an item-type Artifact Spirit.

[The step before reaching the peak is the hardest.] The soft female voice came again.

"Mm." Lu Ran reached to the side, his fingertips brushing over the flowing, smooth band.

When he first entered the Heavenly Realm, cultivation was indeed relatively easy.

Being of the Human Clan's flesh and blood, every part needed transformation, and Lu Ran was like trailblazing, exploring unknown areas wherever the Holy Spirit Energy roamed.

Now, Lu Ran was only short of the heart area, so naturally, the difficulty spiked.

Looking at it from a higher perspective, the wayward Holy Spirit Energy hadn't gone to waste either. After all, when he ascends to the Second Heaven in the Heavenly Realm, he still has to reach the Third Heaven.

Really, it's like preparing in advance for the next phase.

Lu Ran sat upright, focused his mind, and concentrated again on purifying Holy Spirit Energy.

Purified, let it run loose.

Success, failure, success again, failure again...

It was as if fate were joking with Lu Ran, until at some point, he truly started to believe in bad luck.

[Ruyi.]

[Mm?] In his mind, the voice of Immortal Jiang came through.

Early on the first day of Huangfu's advancement, Lu Ran had contacted the three squads on the Heavenly Realm Battlefield, calling everyone back to the Sect.

Why not cultivate and temporarily leave the battlefield to rest comfortably?

The first and third squads heeded the call, merging their forces, and were brought back by Jiang Ruyi.

Deng Yuxiang's second squad did not return, as she had just led her team to the battlefield and it was not yet time for a "break."

[Could you... come to the seclusion room for a bit?] Lu Ran requested.

In the study, Immortal Jiang, who was sitting on the ground, silently voidified, slowly sinking into the ground.

Her phantom-like form penetrated the earth and passed through the solid walls to arrive in the seclusion room, standing before Lu Ran: "Tired?"

"No, come here." Lu Ran raised his hand, gripping her wrist.

Jiang Ruyi, not understanding, followed his force, kneeling before him.

Lu Ran toyed with the delicate jade hand of the Immortal Lady, picking out an index finger and pointing it at his heart.

Feeling the strong heartbeat beneath her fingertip, Jiang Ruyi asked in confusion, "What is this?"

Lu Ran closed his eyes, muttering, "This move is called Immortal's Guidance~"

Jiang Ruyi: "..."

Clearly, Lu Ran's mindset was still quite good, and Jiang Ruyi was willing to humor him, maintaining her posture throughout.

After a long while, another wisp of Holy Spirit Energy was purified out.

"Ruyi, Ruyi, follow my heart..." Lu Ran froze completely.

He never dared to dream so boldly!

He initially just wanted to borrow some of the Immortal Lady's fortune, hoping to generate Holy Spirit Energy around his heart, praying that it would drift into the heart region.

Unexpectedly, the Holy Spirit Energy directly manifested at the destination?!

The left side of the chest.

The heart area!

"...will." Lu Ran hesitated for a moment, then uttered the final word.

"Hoo!!"

A fierce wave of Divine Power rippled out.

Jiang Ruyi's long hair fluttered, and on that stunning face, a subtle smile appeared.

There's no such thing as luck or no luck.

It's always those who have a will that achieve their goals.

Jiang Ruyi quietly retreated, her figure voidifying, merging into the stone wall.

It felt like the saying "Once done, depart gracefully, and hide one's achievements and fame."

Lu Ran couldn't bother with all that!

His body shivered uncontrollably, and a low, hoarse voice echoed in his mind: [Close.]

Lord Immortal Sheep?

From the distant Holy Spirit Mountain, Lu Ran heard Lord Immortal Sheep's voice once again.

Very familiar, yet it left Lu Ran bewildered.

What was close?

Getting closer to challenging the God Demon?

Or...

He couldn't help but think about the relationship between a human and a god.

With each step Lu Ran took towards the Highest Heaven, he drew nearer to the Immortal Sheep God Sculpture.

As an Inheritor, his every approach signified the approaching end of the Immortal Sheep.

[Lord Immortal Sheep...]

[How have you been polishing the blade in your hand?] The Sheep span was still domineering, directly interrupting Lu Ran's words.

Blade?

Lu Ran first thought of the Divine Weapon, but then guessed that Lord Immortal Sheep wouldn't specifically refer to the Divine Weapon, so it must be...

Ran Sect!

Pseudo God Stone Sculpture!

Lu Ran responded: [Currently among the disciples of Ran Sect, there are 19 Pseudo God Stone Sculptures of the Second Heaven in the Heavenly Realm, along with 1 Stone Sculpture of the Third Heaven and 1 Human Clan member of the Third Heaven.]

Nineteen counts as the head number of Ran Sect warriors.

If the Divine Sculpture and Evil Sculpture were split apart, the number would naturally exceed nineteen.

[Third Heaven Stone Sculpture, Deng Yuxiang.] the low voice fell again.

This was the first time Lu Ran heard these three characters from Lord Immortal Sheep's mouth.

The Big Nightmare finally earned a name!

[Yes, it's the lady you helped save in Beifeng City back then! She inherited the North Wind-Night Charm Stone Sculpture.] Lu Ran promptly replied.

[Who is the other Third Heaven person?]

[His name is Huangfu Zhao, a disciple of my mother's Cloud Sea Sect, currently the inheritor of Dong Ting Divine Sculpture, but hasn't merged with the Stone Sculpture.]

No more transmission echoed in his mind, leaving Lu Ran to wonder what Lord Immortal Sheep was contemplating.

Lu Ran patiently waited a moment and sought: [With the current disciples' configurations, can they challenge the God Demon?]

This time, the God's response was straightforward: [Go to the Second Heaven, see for yourself, make your own decisions.]

[Lord Immortal Sheep.] Lu Ran was slightly frustrated, [I know you always want me to find my own path, but that doesn't stop you from giving some advice!

Just a bit, even a little would be nice!]

Lu Ran's mind fell silent once again.

Just as he thought Lord Immortal Sheep had departed, a hoarse voice descended: [It's worth a try.]

[Oh?] Lu Ran's eyes suddenly lit up.

[Pick the softest target.] The transmission coldly descended.

Lu Ran completely ignored the Sheep's disdainful tone, his heart filled entirely with "it's worth a try."

Finally!

Finally!!

He tried hard to calm his mood and continued: [Lord Immortal Sheep, the disciple plans to start with the Seventh Rank Evil God·Angry Sea Flame Flood Dragon.]

Immortal Sheep: "..."

Do you think that by adding a prefix "Seventh Rank Evil God," the Angry Sea Flame Flood Dragon becomes a soft target?

[The disciple has discussed this with his subordinates; the Angry Sea Flame Flood Dragon has low intelligence, extreme volatility, lacks Spirit Defense, and has severe flaws...] Lu Ran quickly explained.

[Ha.] Immortal Sheep let out a cold laugh.

Lu Ran immediately stopped.

Although he expected to be ruthlessly ridiculed once more, he didn't anticipate a final statement in his mind: [Your courage is considerable.]

Lu Ran blinked, feeling like his mouth had tasted honey:

[That's necessary! Otherwise, how could I qualify as your disciple?]

Immortal Sheep let out a cold snort: [Even a Stone Sculpture of the Third Heaven, touched by the Angry Sea Flame Flood Dragon, would be crushed to pieces.]

[Beifeng Night Charm Deng Yuxiang, Dong Ting Demon Roc Huangfu Zhao, plus the elusive me.] Lu Ran sat upright, his expression resolute, [I bet the Angry Sea Flame Flood Dragon won't touch us!]

[Why take such a big risk when there are other Evil Gods with low intelligence?]

Lu Ran answered seriously: [Once the Angry Sea Flame Flood Dragon is shattered, and a Divine Position is seized, the Mad Immortal Guardian becomes a True God. And a True God, surpassing Fake Gods, can form a master-servant contract with the Stone Sculptures.]

This way, before Ran Sect's Pseudo Gods attain a real Divine Position, they'd all be able to ignite flames.

All possess the capability for level-defying slaughter!

Lu Ran's words were forceful, and a sinister laugh then echoed in his mind:

[Hehe~]

The sudden eerie laugh instantly made Lu Ran turn into a little tabby cat, raising his hackles in alarm!

[This is the path you choose, hehehe...]

Lu Ran shivered involuntarily once more.

In comparison, he still preferred the Sheep's cold and domineering manner.

[Almost.] The transmission suddenly descended.

[Ah?]

[A True God cannot be matched by mere two Fake Gods.] Immortal Sheep's tone did not soften, growing even colder.

[Then... How about including Si Xianxian, who inherited Lie Tian Stone Sculpture, and Jiang Ruyi with the Jade Talisman-Ghost Talisman?] Lu Ran tested.

Add one explosive output, and another powerful control!

Immortal Jiang's enchanted array against the low-intelligence, weak Spirit Defense Angry Sea Flame Flood Dragon should have a miraculous effect, right?

[Almost.] The transmission echoed, with not a word missing.

Lu Ran: "..."

Are you a repeating machine?

...

Chapter 913: Target, Evil God!

Since the activation of the advancement mode, Lu Ran's speed of refining the Holy Spirit Energy has surged.

Day after day of breakthroughs has continuously strengthened and transformed his body. It still appears to be flesh and blood, but upon deeper examination, it seems to be forged from energy.

The strength of this body is so formidable that even Lu Ran himself finds it frightening.

Lu Ran even had an illusion:

He felt that even without the Water Flow Armor, relying solely on his flesh, he could withstand the attacks of those from the Sea Realm!

And this illusion reached its peak the moment he truly advanced!

"Phew!!"

A fierce stormwave expanded from within Lu Ran.

The Divine Weapon clung tightly to Lu Ran's body, afraid it would be blown away.

Fortunately, these were Divine Weapons, for if it were the Human Clan, they would probably not withstand the pressure of the Master of the Ran Sect.

Heavenly Realm·Second Level!

Whenever a person from the Human Clan advances, it is the time when their aura is at its most intense.

Even if a Great Power from the Sea Realm were present, they might tremble in fear, reduced to little sprouts from the Mist Realm and Stream Realm...

"Ughhhhh~"

Lu Ran stretched lazily with a fierce expression, then leaned back.

This time, the Smoke and Mist Silk allowed its master to lie flat, though it also cradled him, gently setting him on the ground, as if worried that someone might smash a hole in it.

Little Blazing Phoenix was overjoyed, quickly flying in front of Lu Ran's face, flying up and down.

Treating Lu Ran's face like a children's trampoline...

Bang bang!

"Stop stop stop!" Lu Ran quickly held the chubby Treasure Gourd, rubbing the bottom of the gourd with one hand.

Having cultivated to this point, one's mindset changes.

Lu Ran wasn't worried about his face at all; he was worried that little Blazing Phoenix's bottom might hurt...

He clasped the excited little Blazing Phoenix and then realized that the surrounding mist hadn't dissipated.

Mr. Huangfu hasn't succeeded yet?

Or are there other soldiers advancing?

Hmm... talk about it later!

"Swish~"

Lu Ran's figure flashed and appeared a hundred kilometers away.

To outsiders, it seemed magical!

But Lu Ran frowned.

He had exerted his utmost effort in casting the technique, yet there was no increase whatsoever in the distance of the instant teleportation.

"So it is," Lu Ran stood on the calm sea, lightly sighed.

His mother, Mr. Huangfu, and many Ran Sect soldiers had all informed Lu Ran that after advancing to the Second Level of the Heavenly Realm, using magic wouldn't be much stronger than before.

This time, for Lu Ran, the speed of disappearing and reappearing seemed to have increased a tiny bit.

But that was all.

In terms of specific efficacy, there was no significant progress.

The Heavenly Realm rank is indeed divided into the first, second, and third levels.

Human Clan breakthroughs are the same as breaking through to the Great Realm and are far more difficult than cultivation breakthroughs in the Sea Realm.

The growth is also substantial: body reinforcement and transformation, terrifying aura enhancement, increased mental strength—all these benefits Lu Ran immensely.

However, purely in terms of skills, Heavenly Grade seems to be the end!

This is the highest grade technique that the Human Clan and the Pseudo God Stone Sculpture can perform.

Even though it's divided into Heavenly Grade First and Second Levels, the progress is very slight, with no qualitative leap in specific effects.

According to Lord Immortal Sheep's theory, to perform a more powerful level of technique, one must possess a true Divine Position!

"A true Divine Position..."

Lu Ran thought silently and flashed back to Tianya Residence.

Mentioning "Divine Position," he recalled his conversation with Lord Immortal Sheep at the beginning of his advancement.

It wasn't difficult to hear that Lord Immortal Sheep wasn't particularly supportive of Lu Ran's first choice of hunt.

Repeating phrases like "a bit lacking in meaning" made Lu Ran grimace.

If so, why not pick a softer target first?

First capture a Divine Position, let the techniques of his subordinates undergo a qualitative leap, and then go hunt the Angry Sea Flame Flood Dragon?

This would naturally be more secure.

So the question becomes, what soft target should be chosen?

According to Lord Immortal Sheep's pointers, Fake Gods seeking a true Divine Position must challenge their corresponding gods.

Take Yu Changsheng for example; if he smashed the relatively weak Evil God-Bamboo Wood Demon, Conglong Stone Sculpture could not become the new god.

Because God Dragon Carp and Evil God Mo Li still exist!

Yu Changsheng's fake god status destined him to be unable to establish himself with a new crown.

As long as the old king does not abdicate, the new king cannot ascend!

"Hmm..." Lu Ran pondered continuously, cautiously lying on the bed.

A moment later, a voice sounded in his mind: [Mr. Conglong?]

[Please wait, Sect Leader, we are currently killing... um, alright, what is it, Sect Leader?]A response came from the other side.

[Are you in the Heavenly Realm Battlefield?]Lu Ran asked with curiosity.

[Yes, the day after you broke through your cultivation bottleneck, Lady took us back to the battlefield.]Yu Changsheng responded truthfully.

Lu Ran sighed inwardly.

Little Ruyi is indeed diligent.

The Divine Power at the ends of the earth is indeed rich, but in the end, no amount of hard-earned money can compare to the speed of robbery, can it?

[Sect Leader?]

[Our plan might need some adjustments,] Lu Ran contemplated.

[But what instructions does Lord Immortal Sheep have?]

[Yes...] Lu Ran briefly recounted the previous conversation.

Yu Changsheng listened carefully, constantly integrating the information, and his expression grew increasingly serious.

Regarding the true power of All Gods and Demons, the members of the Ran Sect clearly did not have a clear understanding. Now that they had received guidance from Lord Immortal Sheep, indeed, the primary task objective needed appropriate adjustments.

[Sect Leader, please hold on, Lady says she will take us back to discuss in person.] Yu Changsheng transmitted again.

[Alright, I'll wait for you in the living room.]

As Lu Ran sat up, the bed beneath him had already transformed into a Taishi Chair in the hall.

After waiting for a while, several figures emerged from the tunnel.

A heavy killing intent rushed towards him, turning the hall into an ice cellar, which sobered Lu Ran considerably.

"Sect Leader!"

"Sect Leader," Yu Changsheng and Leng Xushuang greeted in turn.

By this time, the Xuan Shuang Guard had long fused with the Stone Sculpture of the Ice Plum Demon Queen, and her true form had reached the second level of the Heavenly Realm.

"Sit," Lu Ran immediately said.

"Go brew a pot of tea," Jiang Ruyi commanded softly, stepping onto the seat.

"Yes," Leng Xushuang turned and left.

Lu Ran gazed with Simurgh Eyes at the enchanting back of the Xuan Shuang Guard, pondering.

The Ice Plum Demon Queen's clan possessed the Evil Technique·Soul Capturing Cold Fragrance, capable of causing confusion and intoxication with the subtle plum fragrance.

Could this be an effective strategy against the Evil God·Angry Sea Flame Flood Dragon, whose spirit defense was lacking?

"Sect Leader," Yu Changsheng began, "Lord Immortal Sheep's meaning is, even the Pseudo God Stones of the third level of the Heavenly Realm cannot withstand a single hit from the Angry Sea Flame Flood Dragon?"

"Exactly, they said we would shatter upon contact~" Lu Ran shrugged, "Treating us like porcelain."

Jiang Ruyi softly said, "After all, the Angry Sea Flame Flood Dragon has the ability to kill beyond its grade."

Yu Changsheng: "It's a dilemma, it seems we..."

"What are you saying, sir?" Lu Ran suddenly asked.

Yu Changsheng paused and explained: "It means identifying the enemy's weaknesses, targeting precise strikes, intensifying the consequences of those strikes, leaving them with no escape."

"Oh," Lu Ran nodded slightly, murmuring, "I know, just testing you."

Yu Changsheng: ?

"Learned," Jiang Ruyi nodded slightly, reflecting, "Please continue, sir."

Lu Ran: "..."

You're making it seem like I'm too stubborn?

Yu Changsheng continued: "The Angry Sea Flame Flood Dragon's spirit defense is somewhat lacking. To eliminate this god, the best approach is to attack with Spiritual Output!"

Lu Ran agreed quite a bit.

Yu Changsheng pondered: "These Pseudo God Stones we possess, once holding a Divine Position, will see Heavenly Grade Techniques achieve a qualitative leap! Given this...

our first target could be those Gods and Demons with spiritual output skills."

Lu Ran suddenly said: "The Mo Li Clan possesses the Evil Technique·Ink Splendor Evil Carp, which is a powerful move capable of a mental impact on all beings."

Yu Changsheng naturally desired the chance to become a god!

But after much hesitation, he still shook his head and said: "The Sect Leader is right, but the Mo Li Clan is not easy to handle.

Their spiritual output is extremely strong, posing a significant threat to us. Additionally, their healing capabilities are equally formidable, making them difficult to kill.

We should instead first take down the Angry Sea Flame Flood Dragon and equip ourselves with enough powerful firepower, then set our sights on the Mo Li and Dragon Carp."

Lu Ran nodded, murmuring: "From the perspective of god-slaying, the Ice Plum Demon Queen is not easy to kill either."

Having just seen Leng Xushuang, he only considered the "Cold Fragrance to control the enemy" aspect. Upon deeper reflection, the Ice Plum Demon Queen's speed was astonishingly fast!

Not to mention the Evil Gods, even the Xuan Shuang Guard, all people on the Heavenly Realm Battlefield ever saw were her afterimages.

Until the battle ended, one could hardly see her true form.

Lu Ran suddenly said: "Ghost Talisman Doll!"

Jiang Ruyi raised an eyebrow: "Enchantment Array?"

Yu Changsheng pondered for a long time, nodding his head: "The clan's output capability is not bad, but primarily single-target, with significant flaws and low intelligence!"

"If!" Lu Ran licked his lips, "I'm saying, if! During our life-and-death battle with the Ghost Talisman Doll, if the Doll couldn't hold back and suddenly Voidified, evading our attack..."

Jiang Ruyi's eyes brightened: "You with Nightmare would be able to blow this Evil God to smithereens instantly!"

"Snap~"

Lu Ran snapped his fingers.

Exactly so!

Yu Changsheng continued to analyze on his own: "The Ghost Talisman Clan doesn't have Spirit Defense Techniques; the Sect Leader's sardonic lamb's call should be able to bind the Doll."

Sardonic towards a god?

Binding a god?

In the past, who would dare to boast like that?

However, times have changed!

Logically speaking, the position of the Evil God implies a higher rank and thus should have sufficient mental fortitude to resist Lu Ran's sardonic call.

Yet it's worth repeating: the Ghost Talisman Doll's intelligence is low!

Its own mental fortitude may not be as extreme as that of the Angry Sea Flame Flood Dragon or the Barbaric Female Demon, but it still falls below average.

The very reason everyone dares to harbor ill intentions toward the Ghost Talisman Doll fundamentally lies in the word "intelligence"!

Lu Ran slowly stood up, moving to stand before Jiang Ruyi.

Jiang Ruyi did not understand the intention, and unfortunately, the mist was too dense to see clearly.

Yet she sensed a hand reaching down gently to straighten the hair by her forehead, a deep voice resonating:

"It's you, my first god..."

Jiang Ruyi tightly pressed her lips, but this time, took the initiative, lightly grasping Lu Ran's large hand.

Honored beyond words!

...

Chapter 914: Firework Golden Body

Jiang Ruyi closed her eyes, holding Lu Ran's hand, her cheek gently rubbing his palm.

It was an incredibly reassuring feeling that made her somewhat intoxicated.

Just returning from the battlefield, the lingering cold killing intent in her heart quietly faded away.

The dense fog environment became an excellent camouflage.

On normal days, if there were outsiders present, Jiang Ruyi would not behave so intimately. To her surprise, when she unintentionally opened her eyes, she was astonished to find that much of the fog had already dispersed.

The furnishings in the room were faintly visible.

Jiang Ruyi immediately turned her eyes, looking at Yu Changsheng seated below the hall.

The strategist, who exactly is he?

Yu Changsheng kept looking elsewhere, muttering to himself, seemingly immersed in his world, contemplating something.

The Majestic Heaven Realm has a keen perception of the surrounding environment.

It was understandable that Jiang Ruyi was influenced by the Dao Heart and completely immersed in some emotion, but Yu Changsheng?

The fog was thinning, how could he not notice?

"The Actor's Self-Cultivation"

Lu Ran watched Yu Changsheng with a smile, turned his head, and lowered his eyes to look at Immortal Jiang.

The continuous flames of war had tempered this beautiful immortal jasmine into a much cooler persona.

The gradually reddening cheeks softened the cold and glamorous aura somewhat, allowing Lu Ran to find the resemblance of his deskmate from his memories.

"Who advanced successfully?" Jiang Ruyi dropped Lu Ran's hand.

Lu Ran pouted.

Use and discard, huh?

Heh,

women!

Jiang Ruyi raised her heels and gently kicked Lu Ran's calf, whispering, "I'm asking you."

"I don't know." Lu Ran, lacking any perceptiveness, still stood before the Taishi Chair, not moving an inch.

Like a wall!

Jiang Ruyi, both annoyed and amused, looked up at Lu Ran.

Just as the figure in the fog gradually became clear.

He was clothed in white that shamed the snow, a wide white robe moved without wind, and the swirling Smoke and Mist Silk behind him traced a beautiful arc.

Brimming with immortal aura.

With the blessing of the magic artifact, this heroic youth also appeared gentle, graceful, and otherworldly.

Indeed, a top-tier magic artifact like Smoke and Mist Silk, tied to a dog, would turn it into the Howling Celestial Dog!

Let alone Lu Ran?

Jiang Ruyi stared blankly for a moment and unnaturally looked away.

The words she wanted to say before remained unsaid.

Lu Ran raised an eyebrow slightly, teasing, "Little Ruyi, not enough resistance, huh?"

"Go away." Jiang Ruyi lightly spat, pushing the guy in front of her aside.

Lu Ran finally sat back in the chair.

The Ran Sect's first squad had the highest overall appearance.

Jiang Ruyi, Leng Xushuang, and Yu Changsheng, three human beauties gathered together.

With Bai Rao closely following them.

Jiang Ruyi was naturally accustomed to "worldly glamour," and just now when she looked at Lu Ran, she was plainly dazed for a moment, what did that represent?

Hehe~

Lu Ran's self-perception felt quite good.

"Sect Leader." Yu Changsheng timely spoke, "The last time the fake gods in the Sculpture Garden organized resources was three and a half months ago."

Lu Ran nodded.

At the beginning of May, Ran Sect warriors gathered in the garden and once again supplied the Nightmare Stone Sculpture with blood.

It was during that time that Deng Yuxiang advanced to the Heavenly Realm, Third Level.

"Is it already mid-August?" Lu Ran asked.

During this time, he had been advancing and had long lost track of the days.

"August 18th."

"Good! I'll summon the soldiers to return, offer resources to the Immortal Jasmine Stone Sculpture, and see if we can..." Before Lu Ran could finish, he suddenly raised his head slightly.

Who is summoning me?

Lu Ran searched for a moment, tightly connecting with the Heavenly God Sculpture in the garden:
[Xian'er Sis?]

[Young Master~~~]

The girl deliberately dragged out the sound, sweet and syrupy.

Lu Ran shivered slightly.

[Heehee~ Hehe~ Hahahahahaha!] Unrestrained laughter clearly entered Lu Ran's mind.

Lu Ran, also infected by this intense joy, tentatively asked: [Did you advance to the Heavenly Realm?]

[Are you in the sect?] Si Xianxian suddenly asked.

[I am.]

[What are you busy with? The fog has dispersed and you didn't notice?] Si Xianxian was quite perplexed.

[Oh.] Lu Ran made an assumption, always thinking it was Huangfu Zhao who summoned the fog.

So, Mr. Huangfu succeeded a long time ago?

Hopefully so.

Lu Ran mused privately, calculating the days; he succeeded in breaking through the bottleneck more than ten days after Huangfu Zhao advanced.

It seems breaking through from the Second Level to the Third Level of the Heavenly Realm also takes about a month.

[Of course, it's me~] Si Xianxian was very excited, [Are you at home? I'm coming to see you now. It's my turn to go to Mo Gu Peak with you this time!]

Just thinking about smashing the Heavenly God Sculpture excited her to no end.

[Come to Tianya Residence.]

[Okay~]

Lu Ran smiled, imagining her rushing over briskly.

"It's Xian'er Sis, she advanced to the Heavenly Realm." Lu Ran looked at the two.

Yu Changsheng gently shook his folding fan, nodding repeatedly: "With the Mad Immortal Guardian, our chances against the Ghost Talisman Doll have increased significantly."

Lu Ran completely agreed!

The Heavenly God Sculpture in the Sculpture Garden had long been cultivated to the Heavenly Realm, Second Level by him, and Xian'er Sis inherited all the stone sculpture's strengths, so her power level naturally rose as well.

No doubt about it, Xian'er Sis is truly fortunate.

Everything the world owed her, Lu Ran returned to her in full.

She just ascended to the Heavenly Realm and is about to ascend to the Second Level of the Heaven Realm again....

When the Xian Mo Stone Sculpture and the Mad Immortal Stone Sculpture both reach the Heavenly Realm-Third Level, the Ran Sect can take action!

Lu Ran pursed his lips, eager to try.

Just right, I'm about to head to the Second Heaven, and it's said that the resources there are much more plentiful than the First Heaven...

Lord Immortal Sheep was right, it's indeed near!

Lu Ran steadied his mind and transmitted a message to his brain: [Mr. Huangfu?]

[Young Master.]

[Is everything well with you, sir?] Lu Ran couldn't help but feel a bit anxious.

[I haven't disgraced my mission! I have reached the Third Level of the Heavenly Realm.]

[Good good good...] Lu Ran said several times in a row, rejoicing, [In the future, to kill the Ghost Talisman and slay the Flame Flood Dragon, I'll have to rely on you, sir.]

Huangfu Zhao was a bit taken aback, though he was usually calm, his heartbeat also accelerated a bit: [What is the Young Master planning?]

[Yes, some final preparations need to be done.] Lu Ran thought for a moment, then transmitted another message, [Please come to my house, sir, I have some questions to ask.]

[As you command!] With the transmission ending, from a cave below Heaven's Edge, a purple electric flash darted out, climbing up the steep rock wall to the sea cliff, and flashed across the island.

"Whoo!!"

A gust of wind and waves swept over, and a lavishly dressed man in a purple robe was already standing outside the entrance to the cave at Tianya Residence.

Huangfu Zhao carefully groomed his appearance, reported to the Shadow Guards, and then stepped into the cave, seeing several people inside.

"Young Master! Young Lady!" Huangfu Zhao respectfully saluted and asked.

Lu Ran felt comfortable!

Such a way of addressing felt fitting, as their relationship justified it. Listening to Sister Xian'er's way of calling was simply a mess!

"No need for formalities, sir, have a seat." Jiang Ruyi studied the noble and dignified man in the purple robe, looking at this figure standing at the pinnacle of the Human Clan.

"Yes." Huangfu Zhao obeyed and sat down on the other side of the hall after nodding friendly to Yu Changsheng.

Lu Ran eagerly asked, "Mr. Huangfu, what is the difference between the Heavenly Realm's Third Level of the Human Clan and the Second Level?"

People like Jiang Ruyi, Yu Changsheng, and Deng Yuxiang have already merged with Stone Sculptures, leaving the category of the Human Clan.

Asking Deng Yuxiang naturally wouldn't yield any satisfactory answer.

Lu Ran mainly wanted to know why his mother was so feared by the God Demon.

To this day, he had spoken to his mother several times, but had never brought this up directly.

"Hmm..." Huangfu Zhao contemplated, "At the skill level, the effect of spells for Heavenly Realm's First, Second, and Third Level human believers should not differ much."

Lu Ran nodded, knowing that Heavenly Grade Techniques were already the limit.

Huangfu Zhao shifted the topic, "But from a personal standpoint, our Human Clan's power, physical strength, spiritual strength, and other aspects have greatly improved."

Lu Ran also agreed with this remark, but still couldn't find the point that God Demons feared.

Huangfu Zhao said in a deep voice, "Especially on the spiritual level! Our Human Clan's spiritual strength seems excessively strong."

"Oh?" Lu Ran raised his eyebrows slightly.

Huangfu Zhao looked at Lu Ran and said, "I observe that you, Young Master, are full of spirit, presumably having just upgraded not long ago?"

"Yes."

"Do you have any direct perception of the difference in spiritual strength between the First and Second Level of the Heavenly Realm?"

Lu Ran suddenly stood up, enlightened: "So that's it!"

Several people in the room directed their gaze towards him.

Huangfu Zhao sighed, "It seems that you, Young Master, are more perceptive than I am."

"That's not true!" Lu Ran waved his hand, "Spiritual strength is indeed hard to directly feel, but I have data."

"Data?" Now it was Huangfu Zhao's turn to be puzzled.

Lu Ran slowly said, "You may not know, sir, the only indicator of how many Stone Sculptures in my Sculpture Garden I can activate is the level of my spiritual power!"

Huangfu Zhao thoughtfully nodded, feeling a stir in his heart.

This kind of secret should, of course, not be made public.

Lu Ran's hesitation-free explanation clearly showed his absolute trust in Huangfu Zhao, considering him one of his own.

"In the Mist Realm, I could only activate one Stone Sculpture; in the Stream Realm, I gained two more activation slots; the River Realm added five, the Sea Realm added eight, and the River Realm added fifteen more."

Lu Ran paused and solemnly said, "Upon ascending to the Heavenly Realm's First Level, my Stone Sculpture activation slots directly increased by 28!"

Yu Changsheng said softly, "Second Level of the Heavenly Realm, increased by 51?"

"Eh?" Lu Ran was taken aback, looking at his strategist, "How did Mr. Conglong calculate that?"

Yu Changsheng, "The sum of the slot numbers for the first three realms."

Lu Ran: ???

Was this actually a math problem?

Yu Changsheng asked, "Am I right?"

Lu Ran opened his mouth, "Uh, Lord Immortal Sheep told me it's about 50 slots."

Yu Changsheng's eyes moved slightly, "Not too far off, continue calculating, when the Sect Leader ascends to the Third Level, the increase in activation slots..."

Jiang Ruyi said softly, "94 slots."

Yu Changsheng sighed, "And it's not just a total of 94 slots. The total number of Stone Sculptures the Sect Leader can bear and control must also add up all previous activation slots."

Such spiritual strength, no wonder the God Demons fear us."

Lu Ran grinned.

Good fellow~

Turns out we humans are numerical freaks!

What about being humble and lowly?

The reality is that the innate potential, cultivation speed, and spiritual strength of the Human Clan are all enough to make the God Demons extremely fearful?

It's truly...jaw-dropping.

Yes,

we are fragile, and our lives are short-lived.

But we humans, can shine and flourish like fireworks, brilliantly lighting up the entire night sky in a very limited time!

Yu Changsheng looked at Huangfu Zhao, "With Mr. Huangfu's current spiritual strength, has he reached a certain threshold to counter God Demons?"

Though the question was posed, the answer was affirmative!

Because the sky full of God Demons had already provided everyone with a clear answer.

Ruling above the sky, dominating all life in the Three Realms, the God Demons...

Cannot tolerate a mere Qiao Wanjun!

They overtly suppress and covertly plot to completely crush the Cloud Sea Sect, giving the Human Clan no chance to rise.

Do not forget, all of the above acts were established under the premise of external threat invasion.

This undoubtedly gilds the Human Clan group once more!

...

Chapter 915: Lu Xianxian

Counter the gods?

Huangfu Zhao looked troubled: "I have already joined the Young Master's sect. Now I am the inheritor of the Dong Ting Stone Sculpture, everything about the stone sculpture revolves around me..."

"No worries!" Lu Ran waved his hand grandly, "I command the Dong Ting Stone Sculpture to restrict everything about you, forbidding you from casting spells! Sir, see if there is any way to resist."

"Yes!" Huangfu Zhao immediately accepted the order.

As the two were experimenting, a cheerful female voice echoed from the tunnel:

"I'm a little wild horse, I gade gade ga~"

Everyone: "..."

Lu Ran's face was peculiar, feeling as if "dead memories suddenly attacked him."

Little wild horse... Where did he hear that?

"Oh, so many people." Si Xianxian stood at the hall entrance, her eyes lit up upon seeing Jiang Ruyi seated on the Taishi Chair. "Lady is here too!"

"Oh, I remember now!" Lu Ran finally recalled; it was in Da Xia's Beifeng City a few years ago.

He went traveling with Sister Xian'er, bought her a sugar-coated gourd or something, and she ate it while shaking her head, happy as could be.

Then she transformed into a "little wild horse."

"What did you remember?" Si Xianxian looked at Lu Ran and then widened her eyes, "Wow! Young Master, you look so divine!"

Having been accustomed to seeing Lu Ran in the attire of a knight with green straw raincoat and blue hat, seeing him now with feathered robes and ribbons, ethereal and celestial indeed made a strong visual impact.

Lu Ran smiled: "Alright then, I'll call myself Lu Xianxian, and you little wild horse."

"Eh?" Si Xianxian blinked her eyes.

You are the little wild horse!

No, I am the little wild horse... Aiyah, this person is really so annoying!

Lu Ran stood up and looked at the Mad Immortal Guardian: "You're really lucky; I've worked hard to cultivate to the Second Heaven. You're ascending to the Heavenly Realm, making further progress."

Upon hearing this, Si Xianxian instantly dropped everything, her smile sweetly syrupy: "Young Master treats me the best!"

Lu Ran hummed and turned his head to Huangfu Zhao: "Sir has reached the Third Level of the Heavenly Realm, better not merge with the stone sculpture, might lower the realm instead.

Sir should continue to live as a human clan; let's study the pros and cons carefully."

"Yes!" Huangfu Zhao responded deeply, echoing Lu Ran's thoughts.

Lu Ran turned to Jiang Ruyi: "I've already summoned all the Ran Sect warriors back, you need to explain the situation to them, wait for me to return, then consolidate resources."

Jiang Ruyi nodded lightly, watching Lu Ran summon the Ancient Bronze Mirror, then gestured to Si Xianxian to follow:

"Go ahead, Sister Xian'er."

"Mm-hmm!" Si Xianxian was so excited her long legs were trembling, quickly following Lu Ran into the mirror.

Seven Views of the Holy Spirit·Mo Gu Peak, a place of legend for all the Ran Sect warriors.

It's not just a beautiful scenery.

It's a legendary location!

It's a place with legendary color, the "Divinity Transformation Peak"!

Here, one by one, Ran Sect warriors transform into Fake Gods, striding boldly towards the heavens.

And now, it's finally Si Xianxian's turn!

Compared to the overly excited Sister Xian'er, Lu Ran was calm, well-versed in the procedures.

In just over ten minutes, Sister Xian'er took residence in Lu Ran's mind, buzzing with vibrations.

Lu Ran also returned to Tianya Residence, meeting the rushed back group of warriors.

According to plan, he welcomed the shadows of gods and demons into the garden, allowing the warriors to hand over the Holy Spirit Energy from the shadows to the stone sculpture itself.

After a night, Lu Ran and the warriors offered some support to the Xian Mo Stone Sculpture.

The heavens were not aligned with their desires.

A full three squads, amounting to three and a half months of killing and looting, failed to collect enough Origin Energy.

But according to Jiang Ruyi, she felt she was in a very good state, seemingly close to an upgrade...

On August 21st, at dusk, the Mad Immortal Stone Sculpture finally stopped its vibrations.

Lu Ran was finally liberated.

He planned to have a good sleep, renew his energy, and tomorrow he would ascend to the Second Heaven of legend!

But... Crazy Xian'er went mad!

[Young Master! Hahaha! I'm done! Done!] In his mind, the continuous laughter of Si Xianxian echoed,

[I know, I know.] Lu Ran chuckled, but helplessly, [I'll sleep for a bit, don't bother me.]

For over a month, he hadn't truly rested.

Tomorrow is the significant day of ascension, carelessness cannot be afforded.

Si Xianxian seemed not to hear, talking to herself: [I created the shadow of gods and demons. How do I get out? Young Master, where is the path? Let me out...]

Lu Ran: "..."

[Young Master? Lu... uh.]

Lu Ran helplessly turned over, lying on his back on the bed, his eyes releasing a shadow of gods and demons.

Sister Xian'er truly was the Human World's great beauty.

Appearing in shadow form, she looked even more mysterious and beautiful.

Unfortunately, she was crazy.

"Tsk ts~" Si Xianxian floated in mid-air, looking at her illusionary palms, then at the sprawled young man on the bed.

"Have fun, remember to return in the morning." Lu Ran waved his hand.

Si Xianxian had a rare moment of calm, organized her words, and softly spoke: "Before we smash the Evil God·Angry Sea Flame Flood Dragon, I can only appear in this form?"

"Yes." Lu Ran nodded gently, "When it's time to slay the Evil God, I will directly invite your stone sculpture to come forth."

Si Xianxian bit her lower lip, but could only mimic the action, lacking real sensation.

"Endure for now, it won't be long." Lu Ran comforted her.

"So... What should I do now?"

"You don't need to do anything, accompany me to the Second Heaven tomorrow, I will go to the area around the Divine Mountain to capture the Dead Souls, and I will support you." Lu Ran smiled at her.

Si Xianxian's beautiful eyes fixed on Lu Ran.

"What's wrong?" Lu Ran asked, puzzled.

"I... I must be able to do something, right? Follow by your side and help you slay the enemy?"

It was evident that she really wanted to make herself more useful.

"No need, Xian'er," Lu Ran shook his head, "Tomorrow, when we head to the Second Heaven, I will maintain invisibility the entire time. If you reveal yourself to help me, it will only expose my presence."

Si Xianxian pouted.

The joy in her heart entirely vanished.

Lu Ran noticed her disappointment and said softly, "You need to conserve your energy well, our first target has been determined as the Evil God·Ghost Talisman Doll.

I will invite your true form's stone sculpture out. Facing the real Evil God, you can't let me down!"

"No way!" Si Xianxian clenched her fists, "You just tell me who to target! I damn... cough, I promise to help you hammer him to death!"

"Very good, very spirited!" Lu Ran nodded in satisfaction.

"Eh?" Si Xianxian suddenly realized, "Wait a minute! Didn't you say before that our first target was the Angry Sea Flame Flood Dragon?"

Lu Ran suddenly said, "Do you not like Ruyi anymore?"

"I do like her!"

"You don't want to personally escort her to ascend to the Divine Position, and place the crown on her with your own hands?"

"Of course, I do!" Si Xianxian was a bit excited, with a hint of longing in her eyes, clearly moved by the picture Lu Ran painted.

Lu Ran shrugged his shoulders, "So, our first target is the Ghost Talisman Doll."

Si Xianxian: "..."

She finally reacted, looking at the young man in exasperation.

I've grown up seeing all sorts, each one afraid I'll lose control, using a mix of persuasion and intimidation, what rhetoric haven't I heard?

Among so many goblins and sprites,

You are the biggest fool of them all!

"Alright, go play, just be back by morning." Lu Ran turned to lie on his side in bed, leaving Xian'er with just his back.

"It's almost night, where can I go... Oh right!" Si Xianxian floated forward, "I'm going back to the Sculpture Garden, to play with Ruyi."

"That works... no, it doesn't!" Lu Ran suddenly realized the problem.

"Huh?"

"I need to sleep! If you two start talking, how am I supposed to live?" Lu Ran said with some irritation.

"Oh... then I'll go find Little Yuanxi, just to show her my shadow image."

"Get back here!" Lu Ran sat up directly, "You'd better go back to the Sculpture Garden."

Just how dedicated has Qiao Yuansi become?

Si Xianxian, with the strength of the second level of the Heavenly Realm, flaunting a shadow image from the first level, in front of Little Yuanxi?

How is Little Yuanxi supposed to live?

"You're forbidding this and that! Fine, I'll go to Tianya, can I at least watch the sea?"

"Fine, go ahead." Lu Ran finally relented.

Si Xianxian's figure gradually drifted away, and as she flew past the side of the screen, she suddenly stopped, turned her head to look back: "Lu Ran."

"No longer calling me 'Young Master'?" Lu Ran slightly raised his eyebrows.

"Thank you for taking care of me and giving me everything." Si Xianxian had a serious expression.

Lu Ran: "..."

Why does this sound a bit off?

Si Xianxian remained earnest, her eyes incredibly solemn, "I will crush all the enemies in front of you!

Until I'm shattered!"

Lu Ran also put away his smile and nodded gently, "I won't let you be shattered."

Si Xianxian's lips slightly curved upwards, her smile blooming.

Sweet as always.

...

The next morning, at the Heavenly Realm Battlefield.

After deploying the three teams to different areas again, Lu Ran returned to being alone.

Huangfu Zhao wanted to accompany the Young Master to venture into the Second Heaven, but was refused.

According to Lu Ran's plan, this time venturing into a brand-new world, to witness the Highest Heaven, probe the reality of the gods and demons, he would stay invisible the whole time.

Therefore, Lu Ran didn't change his outfit.

Still in his snow-white robe, resembling snow, with feathered attire and ribbons fluttering, his short hair danced gently in the breeze, fully displaying an otherworldly immortal demeanor.

At this moment, he stood on a stone peak, looking up at the sky shrouded by the sea of clouds.

"Whoosh~"

The Smoke and Mist Silk swirled without wind, gracefully flowing and causing Lu Ran's robe to dance alongside it.

Thanks to this top-tier magic artifact, this set of Daoist robe-like white garments has had the fortune to become the "Heavenly Realm Chapter·Ran Shen's first limited edition skin."

In the Mountain Realm Chapter, Lu Ran had four limited edition skins.

Green coir raincoat, wide white robe, Black Gold Emperor Robe, and fox fur cloak.

But in the Heavenly Realm Chapter, there might be only one skin.

After all, Lu Ran has reached this point, it's hard to find other outfits fitting his standing.

"Buzz~" The Silent Night Blade vibrated slightly.

"Let's go." Lu Ran grasped the blade, running two fingers along the cool blade.

If we can't sense the presence of a Divine Weapon within the Second Heaven, then it's most likely in the hands of some god or demon.

Let's hope the situation isn't that dire.

Opponents are god-demons bringing a weapon that can silence all beings; how would we fight then...

"Whoosh~"

Lu Ran slowly floated upwards, constantly nearing the sky's sea of clouds, merging into it alone.

...

Chapter 916: Misty Rain in the Human World

Once again, Lu Ran felt a mysterious energy probing his body.

Even though he concealed his form and aura, he still couldn't escape.

"Phew~"

Lu Ran pierced through the thick cloud sea, feeling the light suddenly dim!

So dark?

The light in the First Layer of Heaven wasn't very abundant either, akin to a cloudy afternoon.

And the Second Heaven felt much more like the sun had just set.

The sky was exceptionally dark.

Lu Ran wasn't affected though, quickly observing his surroundings. The cloud sea he had just traversed was now the solid ground beneath his feet.

The fog sea that once submerged his waist now engulfed his chest.

Within the slowly flowing fog sea, he could no longer see any traces of stone peaks.

"Goodness." Lu Ran murmured, his body slowly rotating.

Under the cloud-covered sky, the landscape was identical in every direction, without a single point of reference.

Is this the Second Heaven?

Lu Ran slowly ascended, thankfully the fog sea below was still surging in one direction, allowing him to discern his path.

Otherwise, if he turned around, he'd lose his bearings.

[How is it, Silent Night? Can you sense the opponent's presence?]

[I can't.] Silent Night Blade responded truthfully.

Lu Ran's heart sank.

It's over!

The Divine Weapon's bearer wasn't in the Second Heaven.

That only leaves the Third Heaven!

The Highest Heaven is the battlefield between gods, demons, and external enemies.

All is lost...

Lu Ran's only prayer now is that the blade with the "Silent Domain" isn't in the hands of a mighty god or demon.

[Ruyi.]

[Hmm?]

[Your physical body in the First Layer of Heaven hasn't lost connection, has it?]

[No.] Responded the Xian Mo Stone Sculpture standing in the Sculpture Garden.

That's good!

Lu Ran felt assured, using his Extreme Eye Power to look south, determined to find a Divine Mountain first.

"Swish~"

With one flicker, he traveled nearly a hundred kilometers.

Yet the environment didn't change at all, making Lu Ran feel as though he hadn't moved at all.

After several flickers, Lu Ran suddenly stopped.

In the dim sky, he saw several flickering flames in the distant southeast.

The flames moved swiftly, stretching long, delicate threads of fire beneath the clouds.

Lu Ran instantly teleported, getting closer to the eye-catching fiery light.

As he flashed forward, everything before him became much clearer. He realized that beneath the dim sky, a Faceless Jade Venerable was chasing the flames.

The strands of fire came from several ancient lanterns with simple designs.

The lanterns were rusty and aged, presenting a bronze hue.

They weren't large; the lamp bowl was like a copper dish, burning a gentle flame, with a gracefully curved waist-high pillar below, easy for a Human Clan member to hold with one hand.

Evil Demon · Green Lantern!

Third-class God · Chenghua's dual nature.

As Lu Ran arrived, he saw one of the three lanterns suddenly turn, aiming at the pursuing Faceless Jade Venerable, releasing a small flare of fire.

"Whoosh~"

The jade robe fluttered with a resounding sound.

The Faceless Jade Venerable continued to fly rapidly forward, unflinching!

Lu Ran examined closely, noticing that the Faceless Jade Venerable of the Second Heaven had no change in size, still about four meters tall.

Her expression was unmoved, chasing after the lamp fire, letting it fall upon her.

"Bang!"

Sparks flew!

The small flare contained terrifying explosive energy, erupting violently! Yet the Faceless Jade Venerable was unharmed, not even pausing.

Such a formidable stance would make any enemy despair!

"Puff~"

"Puff!" The other two green lanterns simultaneously cast spells, scattering endless lamp ashes, with tiny embers mixed within.

Supremely beautiful.

Beautiful indeed, yet even the explosive sparks couldn't harm the Faceless Jade Venerable, how can the little embers?

As Lu Ran expected, the Faceless Jade Venerable flew straight into the layers of lamp ashes without hesitation.

"Crunch!" A crisp sound!

Lu Ran, through the Simurgh's Eyes, saw within the lamp ashes, the Faceless Jade Venerable's large hand directly holding a green lantern, crushing it.

The other two green lanterns fled in panic.

That's the only advantage of their kind now.

Everything within the dense lamp ashes could be perceived by the Evil Demon · Green Lantern, but the Faceless Jade Venerable within lost her vision completely.

"Phew~"

The Faceless Jade Venerable flicked her robe, absorbing dead souls while trying to sweep away the lamp ashes, but to little effect.

Within seconds, the Faceless Jade Venerable collected the dead souls, flying out of the lamp ashes area, swiftly searching for enemies.

Lu Ran sighed heavily in his heart.

In this world, the light was already dim, yet the green lanterns kept burning a flame...

Isn't that courting death?

And the two lanterns weren't fleeing separately; they were escaping in the same direction!

Their intelligence is on par with the Black Lantern Clan.

Lu Ran was quite impressed, watching the Faceless Jade Venerable pursue along the flame threads again.

Is this even a battle?

This is sheer slaughter!

However, there was one thing that aroused Lu Ran's curiosity: he hadn't seen any lackeys of the gods.

Where were the Chenghua lackeys?

Had they not attached themselves to the Black Lantern?

Lu Ran secretly followed, planning to strike when the Faceless Jade Venerable slacked slightly after eliminating the remaining two Black Lanterns, much like a vigilant predator.

"Hmm?" Lu Ran was taken aback, his gaze followed the direction of the Faceless Jade Venerable's pursuit, and he found himself slightly dazed.

This... what is this scene?

It was well known that the environment of the Second Heaven was unchanging.

The sky was shrouded in dark clouds, and fog drifted over the ground, encompassing all within sight.

But beyond the distant southeastern sky, Lu Ran saw an expanse of rolling mountains.

And the mountains were steadily approaching.

"Crack!!"

Once again, Lu Ran heard the sound of a lantern shattering; amidst the remains of the smoldering wick, the Faceless Jade Venerable stepped onto the shadowy lights.

That was the Black Lantern Clan's defense technique: Black Light Shield.

Its defensive power was adequate.

But under the Faceless Jade Venerable's onslaught, the shield was torn apart like paper.

Along with it, the Black Lantern within the light shield was also shattered under the jade foot.

The silhouette of the Faceless Jade Venerable suddenly halted, calmly absorbing the dead souls while allowing the last lantern to flee.

It was as if saying, "I'll let you run a few hundred meters first."

Not to mention the Black Lantern Clan; throughout the entire Da Xia god and demon system, there weren't many who could surpass the Faceless Jade Venerable in speed.

Lu Ran, however, stopped paying attention to the battlefield.

Through the floating ashes of the lantern, his Simurgh's Eyes saw the rapidly advancing mountains, and the distant scene of the world became clearer.

The beauty was illusory yet clear enough.

Although the mountains hadn't yet reached the battlefield, a fine drizzle had already spread across the land.

"Oh..." Lu Ran sighed inwardly, using his extreme eye power, he saw a young woman with a fluttering long dress.

She held an oil-paper umbrella, wearing a long white dress that bore faint ink wash paintings, with branches and flowers adorning it.

Full of ancient charm.

Her long hair was coiled at the back of her head, floating sideways in the wind, breathtakingly beautiful.

As she arrived, Lu Ran found himself completely drawn into a landscape painting.

The mountains were undulating, shrouded in clouds and mist.

The river surface was vast and hazy, with a light rain drizzling.

Amidst this scenery of southern river rain, the gentlewoman with the oil-paper umbrella became the finishing touch.

Chenghua Divine Technique: Drizzling Human World!

This was a rather special purification skill, affecting not living beings, but the terrain and environment.

Within this "Drizzling Human World," believers found it hard to alter the environment, rendering some techniques ineffective.

For example, the sandstorms stirred up by the West Desolation Sect or the icy landscapes summoned by the Ice Burial Clan.

Such environmental-altering auxiliary techniques would soon be completely purified.

And like the Jade Talisman Sect's big moves, which required the disciples to be closely connected to a realm to gather dark clouds and strike with thunder, or to tear the earth and erupt fire pillars.

Such forceful terrain-changing output skills would be constrained in the "Drizzling Human World."

Even if the Jade Talisman disciples released their big moves, the effect would be greatly diminished.

Of course, the purification only applied to divine and evil techniques.

The thick fog summoned during the Human Clan's advancement couldn't be purified by the Chenghua disciples.

Similarly, real snowflakes falling in the human world or desert-raised dust couldn't be purified by this illusory "Drizzling Human World" scene.

Lu Ran wondered why the Faceless Jade Venerable clan had no terrain-altering skills.

Then why did this woman expend so much divine power to change the battlefield environment?

Was it merely to clear away that lamp soot?

Hmm... she was indeed very "clean."

Quite similar to the Ran Sect Divine General, He Yingcai, equally exquisite from fingertips to strands of hair.

"Pa!"

The young woman's plain hand lifted gently, catching the flying Black Lantern.

"Is it just you left?"

Her gentle voice pierced through layers of rain, entering Lu Ran's dog-like ears.

Though she was flying in the air, she stood on the vast river surface, her gown cascading down, as serene as the illusory river surface.

The wind and rain passing by her seemed to slow.

The more Lu Ran observed, the more perplexed he became.

What kind of existence was this person?

She had to be from the Human Clan!

This was beyond doubt; she was flesh and blood, not some illusory deity's lackey.

Her gentle temperament and lovely appearance, though similar to the deities of Chinghua, were definitely not the deity herself.

"Whoosh~"

The flame on the Black Lantern flickered.

As if answering the woman's question.

The gentlewoman's beautiful eyes moved, gazing through the illusory rain toward the distant Faceless Jade Venerable.

It was then that Lu Ran remembered there was still a terrifying enemy present!

The Chenghua Sect could barely be considered a balance of offense and defense, mostly skewed toward defense and support.

In this intensely powerful Heavenly Realm Battlefield, this woman alone with an oil-paper umbrella and an ancient Black Lantern dared to face the Faceless Jade Venerable?

She altered the terrain environment all the way, flying to this place.

Clearly, she wasn't afraid of attracting external enemies.

How powerful must she be?

Lu Ran's curiosity was killing him, as he slowly flew back, eager to see what secrets she held.

Come!

Human Clan, astonish me beyond measure!

...

Chapter 917: One Slash

"Hoo~~~"

The jade robe fluttered.

The Faceless Jade Venerable looked at the human woman and charged straight towards her.

"Lantern Shadow Shroud." The woman's red lips slightly parted as she shook the green lantern in her hand, a shadowy lantern light opened up, encasing her within.

Lu Ran frowned slightly, not believing that such a defense could stop the Faceless Jade Venerable.

Yet the human woman neither dodged nor evaded, allowing the enemy to approach.

"Whoosh!"

Just as Lu Ran was puzzled, the woman wielded the umbrella with her white hand and pushed forward.

An illusory umbrella shadow appeared and, at the moment it touched the lantern shroud, it coincided with the Faceless Jade Venerable stepping onto the shroud.

"Crack! Crack!"

The consecutive sounds of shattering made Lu Ran's heart tremble with fear.

The lantern shadow and umbrella shadow shattered almost simultaneously, yet the forcefully advancing Faceless Jade Venerable was momentarily halted.

What a great technique!

Lu Ran's eyes lit up.

Neither the Evil Technique of the Green Lantern's Lantern Shadow Shroud nor the Divine Technique of the Chenghua's Umbrella Shadow Layered could fend off the enemy alone.

But combining both defense techniques perfectly halted the Faceless Jade Venerable's offensive.

This woman's timing and control were exquisite!

The woman did not disappoint Lu Ran's expectations; she indeed had more tricks up her sleeve! She raised the paper umbrella again above her head and gently twirled the handle with her white hand.

"Swish~ Swish~"

The oiled paper umbrella spun rapidly, scattering a ring of water droplets outward.

Chenghua Divine Technique - Thousand Drip Rain!

Lu Ran heard the "drip-drop" sounds, droplets falling on the Faceless Jade Venerable's body with incredibly swift attack speed and a dense barrage, but...

What was the use?

The Chenghua Sect was not known for its attacking prowess.

Were these dense raindrops just tickling the Faceless Jade Venerable?

Sure enough, the Faceless Jade Venerable faced the raindrops head-on, reaching to grab the woman's head.

The woman's clothes fluttered as she swiftly flew to the side, shaking the green lantern with her other hand: "Green Lantern Ash."

"Whoo!!"

The Evil Demon of the Green Lantern Lamp was indeed not very bright, feeling quite foolish.

But it was obedient!

As soon as the woman's voice fell, thick lantern ash scattered, quickly engulfing the battlefield and obscuring the Faceless Jade Venerable's view.

Lu Ran, however, could see through the ashes clearly.

He saw the woman spin the oiled paper umbrella again, the rain droplets she flung penetrating the lantern ash, sweeping through the scattered embers...

"Bang! Bang!"

"Rumble!"

Firelight burst forth, flames roiling.

The violent wave of explosions spread out, echoing across the sky.

Within the range of the lantern ash, the scattered embers triggered a chain reaction, the raging fire completely engulfing the Faceless Jade Venerable.

And during the first round of attack, those water droplets that fell on the Faceless Jade Venerable's body finally awaited the opportunity and exploded with a roar!

Damn~

Lu Ran cracked a grin.

He forgot that the Green Lantern Lamp - Chenghua Sect had this kind of combination.

The lamp alone might only obscure vision, allowing perception within the ashes.

But if rain droplets from the Chenghua Sect rained upon the lantern ash, they would transform into fuel and detonator oil, causing violent explosions!

In the fierce sea of fire, an oiled paper umbrella plummeted straight down.

Until it exited the explosion range, the oiled paper umbrella abruptly opened, and a woman inside grew larger, once again grasping the umbrella handle.

Lu Ran's eyes narrowed!

Only then did he realize that the umbrella in the woman's hand was not the Chenghua Divine Technique - Oiled Paper Umbrella.

Could it be a Magic Artifact?

It seemed to be of the defensive type.

Judging by its function, it appeared to have a size-reducing ability akin to the Blazing Phoenix?

"Swish~ Swish~"

The graceful woman held the umbrella with her slender hand, continuously twirling and scattering droplets of rain.

Adding fuel to the fire, aiding ignition and explosion!

In the rumbling explosion sound, a silhouette dashed out, escaping far away.

"What the..." Lu Ran was utterly shocked, observing the Faceless Jade Venerable resolutely retreat.

This clan's dominance was evident in all aspects!

The last time Lu Ran saw the Faceless Jade Venerable flee was over at the Divine Mountain of Floral Sea, when North Wind - Night Charm minions attacked en masse.

And now, the Faceless Jade Venerable was forced into retreat by a Chenghua female disciple?

Lu Ran clearly saw shallow fractures crawling across the Venerable's body; if they remained on the battlefield, they'd likely meet their end soon!

Tsk~

This woman was extraordinary!

No wonder she was so fearless, no wonder she wasn't afraid of attracting more enemies.

Given the extent and density of the Green Lantern Ash coverage, killing one was the same as killing a hundred!

The umbrella-wielding woman didn't pursue.

Maybe her speed wasn't sufficient, knowing pursuing would be futile.

She maintained an elegant posture, unmoving like a maiden, quietly standing in the sky, bidding the enemy farewell.

But Lu Ran couldn't hold back.

He wasn't some maiden; in the context of the times, he'd long fulfilled human duties, and if he hadn't embarked on this gods-slaying path, he'd likely already have children several years old.

Hmm... they'd be at least as old as Deng Yu's children, wouldn't they?

Lu Ran was a fled rabbit!

His figure flashed suddenly, appearing a hundred meters behind the Faceless Jade Venerable, vigilantly surveying all directions.

The Second Heaven was unusually dark, severely limiting the vision of living beings.

Without the corresponding pupil skill, truly spotting distant enemies was difficult.

Lu Ran took advantage of this, confirming the Faceless Jade Venerable had fully withdrawn from the battle, and he lifted the butcher's knife in his hand.

The Chenghua lady let you go; but I won't!

"Swish!"

Ran Sect Blade Technique Third Form·Shuo Star!

The fire from the Fierce Heavenly Sect burned on Lu Ran, concealed by the caster's invisibility.

The Third Rank Eight Desolates Blade dragged out the slender sword trace of North Wind - Night Charm, slicing horizontally through the waist of the Faceless Jade Venerable!

"Crack!"

The Faceless Jade Venerable's body, already crawling with cracks, was now cut in two, neat and clean.

Lu Ran flamboyantly flicked a knife flourish.

He was secretly delighted inside!

Indeed, after advancing to the Second Heaven of the Heavenly Realm, when Lu Ran employed the Heavenly Grade·Evil Shadow Flash again, the teleportation distance had not improved at all.

But his speed of disappearing and appearing was just a bit faster!

If it were novice battles or beginners pecking at each other, one second faster or slower might not matter much.

But on the battlefield of the Heavenly Realm's intensity, this tiny change means the difference between life and death!

The Lu Ran of the past, upon teleporting directly in front of the Faceless Jade Venerable, emitted a preemptive Divine Power ripple that could give the Venerable time to react.

Now, although the Faceless Jade Venerable noticed something, Lu Ran was quicker.

Quick enough that the enemy's forward momentum couldn't halt!

Quick enough that the Faceless Jade Venerable's hand couldn't block the blade!

This tiny change achieved an effect almost reaching a "qualitative transformation."

Even when facing the Faceless Jade Venerable at full strength, could Lu Ran strike down the enemy in one move?

One slash to finish it?!

Lu Ran suppressed the excitement in his heart, blinked his eyes and reopened a pair of cold horizontal pupils, seeing the Jade Venerable who died inexplicably.

[Ruyi, dinner time.]

[Mm.] Immortal Jiang replied softly, then asked with concern, [How are you, is everything alright?]

[Pretty good.] As the dead soul entered his pupils, Lu Ran exercised his Extreme Eye Power, seeing the tiny figure flying away in the dim sky.

[Be careful... um.] Jiang Ruyi paused.

With it, Lu Ran's brain buzzed for an instant.

Has the Xian Mo Stone Sculpture advanced?

How many dead souls did the Faceless Jade Venerable, which was just devoured, contain?

The Faceless Jade Venerable minions are probably not divided into the First, Second, and Third Levels of the Heavenly Realm.

The Human Clan will distinguish, and the Pseudo God Stones in the Sculpture Garden will too.

From a growth perspective, the Divine Demon originals should also separate, as they likely climbed step by step when becoming gods.

However, Divine Demon minions, like the Faceless Jade Venerable minions, all belong to the Heavenly Realm, without distinction of levels.

Why is Lu Ran so assured?

Months ago, the Nightmare Stone Sculpture advanced to the Heavenly Realm-Third Level. Based on past experience, Deng Yuxiang should be able to create Evil Demon minions at the Heavenly Realm-Second Level.

The situation surprised everyone!

The Evil Demon minions she summoned still each consumed only a hundred strands of Holy Spirit Energy.

No different than before!

And all the fake gods' bodies come from Evil Demon minions, leading to an issue: despite the Nightmare Stone Sculpture indeed upgrading, the body she left outside to carry out tasks did not actually improve.

In contrast, the human Lu Ran saw more than slight body strength enhancement after advancing!

[Alright, alright.] Lu Ran murmured, feeling the buzzing vibrations of the Xian Mo Stone Sculpture.

Pain and joy together.

He was one step closer to god-slaying, now only lacking the Mad Immortal Stone Sculpture.

[Sorry, I'll try to be gentler.] The cool voice imprinted in his mind.

Lu Ran: "..."

What kind of talk is this!

You... yes, indeed, gentler.

Lu Ran rubbed his head, looking in the direction where the umbrella-holding woman flew, his figure flashed again.

Where would she go?

Following her all along should lead him to the Divine Mountain, right?

Lu Ran thought secretly, trailing behind from a distance, secretly.

Since she is a human compatriot, and such a powerful presence, Lu Ran was certainly very interested.

Unfortunately, Lu Ran knew nothing about her, not her identity, nor her character, making him hesitate to approach rashly.

Along the way, the gentle woman again clashed with a Faceless Jade Venerable.

Lu Ran repeated his method, exploiting the situation once more.

Soon, under the woman's guidance, in the distant southeast direction, Lu Ran saw a magnificent Divine Mountain.

Even before the heaven-connecting Divine Mountain, what first caught Lu Ran's eyes was the drizzling rain.

Not an illusory scene, but something truly existing!

Slowing his forward drive, Lu Ran saw in the cascading rain the freely swimming Sea Merfolk.

As purely underwater creatures, the rain provided freedom of movement for the Sea Merfolk Clan.

Luxurious silver fish tails shimmered with beautiful silvery light in the dim sky, matched by the Merfolk's robust bodies, graceful faces...

Such an enchanting scene left Lu Ran dumbstruck.

He dared not go further.

This uncanny rain was likely a Divine Technique of the Master of Rain sect, with each droplet possessing a vague perception effect.

Though obscure, it existed.

The rank Eight God·Master of Rain was a weaker support flow, its Divine Technique's effects were just so, in the Holy Spirit Mountain Realm, Lu Ran hadn't even seen a disciple of the Master of Rain sect.

The strength of this sect could be imagined.

However, as a new arrival, Lu Ran was not intending to act too freely yet.

This Divine Mountain's surroundings also had Faceless Jade Venerable activity.

Lu Ran watched the umbrella-holding woman approach the Divine Mountain, expecting another fierce battle upon breaking through the blockade.

The Qing Deng clan had the unique Evil Technique·Qing Deng Guide, capable of capturing dead souls.

He wondered how many dead souls were collected in the Qing Deng she held, worth her special journey to greet them.

Lu Ran stood in midair, slowly raised his eyes.

The towering Divine Mountain seemed to pierce the sky, thick dark clouds surrounding the mountain body.

No, something's wrong!

Lu Ran suddenly realized.

His mother had said, in the Second Heaven Divine Mountain region, the sky's cloud sea is rather thin.

Beings from the Lower Realm could roughly glimpse the Upper Realm's situation!

Thus, the dark clouds over the Divine Mountain weren't true "sky clouds," but the rain-bringing clouds conjured by the Master of Rain sect's divine rituals.

Since it was a Divine Technique, Lu Ran could see through it!

He immediately opened a pair of Simurgh's Eyes, looking towards the distant sky.

"Ah?" Lu Ran's pupils slightly contracted!

That...that is...

...

Chapter 918: Boy and Girl?

God?

Divine·Chenghua!

Such a colossal phantom must be the remnant shadow of the Divine Demon.

Compared to the blurred stone sculpture, the remnant shadow of the Divine Demon, though in a phantom state, is much more exquisite.

Lord Chenghua can be described as "Earth-shaking," wearing a long dress full of ancient charm, holding an oil-paper umbrella, as if gazing into the distance.

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

Unexpectedly, the first Divine Demon remnant shadow he saw would be the Third-class God·Chenghua.

No!

Lu Ran suddenly remembered that in Beifeng City, Divine·Beifeng had also descended personally, and its enormous remnant shadow had also stood tall, causing all beings to tremble.

In that case...

The first Divine Demon remnant shadow Lu Ran saw was neither Chenghua nor Beifeng.

Not even Immortal Sheep.

But the Evil God·Yan Paper Man who first extended a hand to him on the God Worship Platform!

Yan Paper...

Thinking of this Evil God, Lu Ran couldn't help but sigh in his heart.

He was never clear why Yan Paper favored him so much.

Additionally: back when Lu Ran was still weak, Lord Immortal Sheep had provided a way, combining the Immortal Sheep Divine Technique·Body of Substitute with the Vermilion Paper Evil Technique·Paper Mache.

When attacked by an enemy, try to achieve the effect of "self unharmed, enemy retaliated against."

But since Lu Ran entered Holy Spirit Mountain, he had little contact with Immortal Sheep and couldn't perform the Divine Technique·Body of Substitute.

The matter of skill combination was set aside.

Now, years have passed, Lu Ran ascended to the Heavenly Realm, but his situation hasn't changed.

He didn't approach the Divine Mountain, and still had weak contact with Divine·Immortal Sheep, unable to summon the scapegoat to his body.

Looking back at his journey, Lu Ran not only didn't have the conditions for casting spells, but as a mouse hiding in dark sewers, he shouldn't have summoned Immortal Sheep's remnant shadow so openly.

Now the situation has changed!

The first target of the Ran Sect, the Evil God·Ghost Talisman Doll stone sculpture, naturally lies in the deepest part of the Human World Da Xia·Demon Cave.

Lu Ran is certain that in the Demon Cave, he can communicate with Lord Immortal Sheep unimpeded, as back in Evil Dog Village during his training and growth, Immortal Sheep had guided him closely.

So before slaying the god, shouldn't he return to the Human World and delve deep into research?

The Heavenly Grade·Divine Technique Evil Technique is already the highest grade skill the Human Clan can perform.

The scapegoat and the Paper Mache Man should be able to combine, right?

Hmm... still need to prepare for the worst.

If still impossible, then he can only seize a Divine Position, qualifying to perform a skill of a higher grade, and then attempt their combination.

No!

Other Ran Sect warriors can seize Divine Positions from the Divine Demons.

It seems Lu Ran's Divine Position is with Lord Immortal Sheep?

This?

Lord Immortal Sheep painstakingly planted a seed early in Lu Ran's heart, giving him a beautiful vision, an almost invincible combined skill...

Urging him to grow quickly, wielding a butcher's knife, to stand before the Immortal Sheep stone sculpture?

Lu Ran slightly widened his eyes.

In his musings, the remnant shadow of the deity in the Highest Heaven suddenly moved.

No one knows what Chenghua saw, as her garments fluttered, abruptly flying away, Lu Ran chased after her silhouette, his view again obscured by the real sky's cloud sea.

The remnant shadow of the deity left, revealing the Divine Mountain connecting the Third Heaven even more clearly in his view.

In the Highest Heaven, the majestic Divine Mountain finally had an end.

There was a peak!

From Lu Ran's position, he could vaguely see the sharp peak at the edge of the mountain, thrusting into a vortex.

A swirling vortex of dark clouds!

Lu Ran could see the constantly flowing dark clouds, with a formidable momentum, yet the content was unknown within.

"Rustle, rustle..."

Drizzling rain.

The cold raindrops immediately woke him up.

To better observe, unknowingly, Lu Ran had been flying forward, entering the rain of the Master of Rain's sect.

"Buzz~" The Silent Night Blade gently vibrated.

In the Divine Mountain region, it sensed the presence of a Divine Weapon from the other side.

[Here it comes.] At the same time, a low and hoarse voice echoed in Lu Ran's mind.

[Lord Immortal Sheep... Please wait! I am in the light rain of the Master of Rain's sect, detectable, the disciple will switch to another Divine Mountain for communications with you.]

[Master of Rain? Hmph.] In Immortal Sheep's sneer, there was full of disdain.

Lu Ran: "..."

The rain of the Master of Rain's sect, the perception effect is indeed beyond words.

It can specifically be equated to the War Horn Divine Skill·Echo Horn.

Whenever Hall Master Jing Hong sounded the horn, everything within the range of the sound waves gave her corresponding feedback, allowing her to construct a map in her mind.

The detection range of the Echo Horn is extensive, yet its flaw is also fatal—vague!

Unless a large army is gathered somewhere, Jing Hong cannot detect anything.

This kind of skill, after upgrading in grade, would only increase the probing range, not deepen the fineness of perception.

The sixth-class god, the War Horn sect's perception is already this poor, let alone the eighth-class god, the Master of Rain's sect...

This rain's greater role should be helping Yan Qing's Sea Merfolk lackeys roam freely in the air.

[Lord Immortal Sheep, is there anything you want to guide the disciple on?] Lu Ran naturally understood Immortal Sheep's meaning, so he stood at the edge of the rain screen and asked via sound transmission.

[How prepared are you?]

[Now, under this disciple's command, there are three warriors of the Heavenly Realm·Third Level, besides Deng Yuxiang and Huangfu Zhao mentioned last time, there's now an addition of Jiang Ruyi.]

Lu Ran paused, then continued: [As you know, she is my fiancée, inheriting the Jade Talisman-Ghost Talisman Doll stone sculpture.]

[Hmm.] Immortal Sheep responded faintly.

[Currently, the disciple is training Si Xianxian, who inherits the Heavenly God Sculpture of Lie Tian, and she will be our strong offensive point for slaying the god!]

[Hmm.] The same one-word response, but the tone carried slightly more weight.

It wasn't difficult to hear that Lord Immortal Sheep somewhat acknowledged Lu Ran's approach.

[After your last suggestion, the disciple changed the primary target, planning to start with the Ghost Talisman Doll before aiming for the Angry Sea Flame Flood Dragon.]

[Oh?]

Upon hearing this, Lu Ran felt quite uneasy.

Majestic Heaven Realm, much like a student waiting for exam results, eagerly awaited the teacher's evaluation.

[Ghost Talisman...Hmm, it's indeed a good entry point.]

Lu Ran breathed a sigh of relief and even showed a slight smile: [Right, right?]

Immortal Sheep shifted the tone: [Have you ever seen the real Ghost Talisman in person?]

[Ah? This disciple has seen the stone sculptures of this clan in the Sculpture Garden, it's a little boy wearing a tiger-skin hat and pasted with Yellow Paper Talisman.]

Immortal Sheep coldly said: [Is that the real Evil God?]

Lu Ran opened his mouth but dared not speak.

The stone sculptures in the garden are all fake gods...

Immortal Sheep snorted coldly: [In the garden, the stone sculpture is a young boy, but why does the Ghost Talisman Clan, which invades on the night of the fifteenth, have both a boy and girl?]

Lu Ran widened his eyes!

What does that mean?

The real Evil God·Ghost Talisman Doll is two stone sculptures?

A boy and girl pair?

Oh crap?!

[Two?] Lu Ran was a bit bewildered.

The sound transmission descended again, the pace slowed somewhat, as if to ensure Lu Ran could understand and remember clearly: [They exist by holding hands, complete through each other, can use each other's skill but also have casting tendencies.

The boy specializes in thunder and blood explosion, the girl prefers quicksand and frost.

The boy is more likely to use Ghost Talisman Formation and Enchantment Formation, the girl habitually uses Cold Ice Flowing Sand Array.]

[Ah.] Lu Ran replied dumbly.

Jade Talisman...really ruthless!

Separating God Demon is not enough, dividing the evil demon into two Evil Sculptures further.

Doing this is to facilitate the control of the evil demon side or prepare in advance, making it easier to break and recover abilities one day?

Lu Ran wasn't sure if his idea was correct.

For all gods, he always speculates with maximum malice.

[Then, do you still want to consider the Ghost Talisman Doll as the first target for elimination?] The voice carried a hint of sarcasm.

Lu Ran pondered for a while, then immediately said: [Still!]

[Oh?]

Lu Ran's expression was serious, stating the fundamental plan: [This clan's mind is shallow, the key is they have a voidification feature, potentially allowing us a huge loophole!]

After a big wind passes, everything disappears in smoke.]

Immortal Sheep was silent, waiting for further words.

Lu Ran considered: [The two evil sculptures of the boy and girl are indeed more dangerous, but thinking from another perspective, it's also an excellent opportunity! Giving us the possibility to defeat them individually.]

No matter if Jade Talisman is preparing for the "divide and conquer" day, Lu Ran plans to gladly accept it!

Lu Ran suddenly asked: [You said the boy and girl exist by holding hands, complete through each other, so does that mean they can be separated?]

[A promising student.] The brief four words carried a hint of gratified meaning.

Lu Ran's eyes shone brightly!

He eagerly said: [Separated and incomplete...then they can't use each other's techniques, right?

Or the divine position is incomplete, if they use evil techniques, they will drop to Heavenly Grade?!]

[Hehe.] A cold laugh penetrated the mind, [Go and try it, won't you know then?]

Lu Ran: "..."

He wasn't sure if this counted as some level of confirmation or if Lord Immortal Sheep also didn't know the deeper situation.

Anyway, the concept of "divide and conquer" is approved by Immortal Sheep.

[Cultivate your Lie Tian.] The voice transmission descended further, getting quieter.

[Wait, Lord Immortal Sheep!] Lu Ran quickly asked, [The disciple still doesn't understand one thing, I saw at the mountain peak, it pierced into a dark cloud whirlpool, what's behind it?]

[Go to the next level to collect information yourself.] The voice transmission became cold again.

Lu Ran looked troubled: [This disciple is only at Heaven Realm·Second Level, it will take a long time to cultivate to the Third Level.]

[Foolish.]

[Uh.] Lu Ran shrank his neck.

Just now, they said I was a promising student!

Turning face this quickly.

What a cold and merciless sheep...

Lord Immortal Sheep's voice transmission became even colder: [What's blocking you as you ascend?]

[Sky Cloud Sea...] Lu Ran's voice transmission paused.

Indeed, Cloud Sea!

Within twenty kilometers of Divine Mountain, the Cloud Sea is thin.

Near the mountain body area, there's no Cloud Sea at all!

This means nothing will obstruct Lu Ran from ascending to the Third Heaven, exploring the Upper Realm.

[Then...does the disciple have the qualification to enter the whirlpool for exploration?] Lu Ran cautiously asked.

[Cultivate Lie Tian, then discuss the future.]

[The disciple understands, thank you Lord Immortal Sheep for the guidance.] Lu Ran folded his hands together, expressing gratitude.

In his mind, only the humming of Xian Mo's stone sculpture remained.

No more divine voice transmission.

Lu Ran waited for a moment, confirming Lord Immortal Sheep's departure, and then retreated from the rain curtain.

Immediately, he fixed his gaze.

He saw a woman holding an umbrella flying close to the mountain body towards the Highest Heaven!

It was the gentle woman Lu Ran previously followed, she...what is her true identity?

...

Chapter 919: The Secret of the Three Realms!

"Master, you summoned me."

Inside the Third Heaven, a woman holding an umbrella gazed at the enormous shadow of a deity, slowly flying to its rear.

The woman hovered in mid-air, kneeling and bowing her head dutifully.

The enormous shadow she worshiped resembled a female of the Human Clan, magnified a hundred-fold, dressed likewise in a long gown, holding a paper umbrella.

Deity-Chenghua!

However, the shadow of Chenghua stared into the dim sky afar, completely ignoring the believer kneeling behind.

The human woman dared not disturb and waited patiently.

After an unknown length of time, the deity finally spoke in a transmitted voice, "Lately, the Origin Energy you offer has lessened."

"This disciple is incompetent." The human woman bowed her head even lower.

"You often perform the Divine Technique-Rain in the Human World, what is your intent? Do you miss the Human World?" Chenghua said blandly.

The human woman slowly shook her head.

"Is it for me to see?" Chenghua rotated the umbrella gently with one hand.

"I wouldn't dare! This disciple dares not." The human woman appeared both anxious and terrified, shaking her head repeatedly.

Chenghua finally turned around, her exquisite figure and enchanting face were captivating enough to mesmerize anyone.

Yet her brows and eyes showed no tenderness.

The deity slowly lowered her head, looking down at the tiny human kneeling beside her legs.

An overwhelming pressure cascaded downwards.

The human woman couldn't help but tremble under the gaze of the enormous deity, not daring to utter another word.

"If you aren't more diligent, your friends and family in the Human World will sooner or later turn to jade dust."

"Yes." The human woman replied softly.

Chenghua rotated the paper umbrella gently, giving orders: "Take some green lanterns and go to the border."

The border?

To the frontline?

The human woman shivered internally, summoning the courage to say, "Master Chenghua, I beg you to allow this disciple to advance, so as to better serve you... uh."

"Whoo!!"

The ethereal hem sway.

Chenghua lifted her foot and stepped on the believer.

The shadow of the deity had no physical form.

The human believer kneeling in mid-air shouldn't have been trampled down, but the terrifying Divine Power, accompanied by gusts of wind, directly blew the human woman to the ground.

"Boom!!"

A muffled sound came, as the woman slammed into the misty sea below, falling heavily to the ground.

Although she wasn't crushed into a pulp, under the deity's foot, she felt as if a towering mountain was pressing fiercely upon her.

The woman turned pale, nearly suffocating.

"Qingying." Chenghua's enchanting face showed a mocking expression, as if she was crushing an ant, gently grinding with her toes, "You wish to become the next Qiao Wanjun."

"Master, calm your anger! This disciple dares not... doesn't dare..." The woman named Qingying hurriedly said.

She gasped for breath with difficulty, her Water Flow Armor continuously cracking.

Qingying realized that the deity hadn't stopped the punishment, quickly explaining: "For us humans to advance, the body becomes stronger, reflexes become faster."

This disciple can capture more Dead Souls and Source Energy for you on the battlefield... ugh!!"

Qingying spat out a mouthful of blood.

In her kneeling posture, she only managed to protect the Magic Artifact-oil paper umbrella below her before her forehead slammed onto the ground.

Even her arms, under heavy pressure, pressed tightly to the ground.

"Your sister is scheduled to ascend the God Worship Platform next year."

Amidst the dense sea of fog, Qingying's forehead pressed to the ground, her eyes wide open!

"Over the years, she has continuously offered prayers before my Divine Statue, dedicated day and night, devoutly."

A deep sorrow arose in Qingying's heart.

"Put away your petty thoughts and do what you must do."

Finally, Chenghua moved her toe away, releasing the trembling, humble life beneath her: "In June next year, I will grant her wish, appear at the God Worship Platform, and take her as an apprentice."

Qingying bit her teeth hard, suddenly feeling lightened of all pressure.

She managed her expression as best as she could, trembling hands wiping the bloodstain off the corner of her mouth, she kowtowed respectfully: "Thank you, Master, for your protection."

"Take ten green lanterns and go."

"Yes." Qingying picked up the oil paper umbrella beneath her, staggering a few steps before slowly flying up.

Chenghua watched the trajectory of the distant, tiny human for a long time, then she too flew towards the Divine Mountain.

Upon nearing the Divine Mountain region, Chenghua suddenly flew diagonally upwards, the immense shadow drilling into the vortex of dark clouds along a sharp peak.

And at the place where the deity and human had just conversed, a concealed figure remained in place—
Lu Ran!

He hadn't expected that today, shortly after entering the Second Heaven, he would find himself again in the Third Heaven.

Because what surrounds the mountain beyond the Divine Mountain isn't the Cloud Sea, after all?

Lu Ran hadn't flown up but had directly instant teleported above the lingering drizzle of the Master of Rain's sect, straight onto the dark clouds.

And he really succeeded!

On reaching the Third Heaven, Lu Ran immediately surveyed the environment.

Here, the sky was equally dim, and the scene wasn't too different from the Second Heaven.

The real difference was, it was extremely quiet here!

There weren't any God Demon minions stationed around the Divine Mountain.

This intel, Lu Ran had already personally observed back in the Second Heaven.

However, encountering it, he was still somewhat startled.

Lu Ran looked around and once more saw the shadow of Chenghua in the distant east that he had seen before.

He happened to catch sight of the moment the shadow of Chenghua gently turned the oil paper umbrella.

The vast and sharp raindrops easily shattered a Faceless Jade Venerable!

No wonder it's so quiet here; there are no God Demon minions guarding, nor a single Faceless Jade Venerable can be seen.

This realm is guarded in person by the deity's shadow!

Lu Ran was still in awe of the immense power of the deity's shadow, not expecting to witness a scene where the believer was punished.

His expression was hard to look at!

In Lu Ran's eyes, the deity's punishment was nothing short of a total humiliation!

Lu Ran didn't know what Chenghua's shadow communicated with the human woman; he couldn't eavesdrop on the telepathy between deity and believer.

However, that human woman was vocal throughout, allowing Lu Ran to catch some of the information.

She called herself Qingying.

She pleaded with the God, asking to be allowed to ascend to the Heavenly Realm·Third Heaven.

This action clearly provoked the God's anger.

Lu Ran couldn't help but think of his own mother.

As her son, he naturally wanted to protect his mother in every way, but the reality was evident: the appearance of Qiao Wanjun truly blocked all paths for the Human Clan!

"Huh..." Lu Ran let out a long sigh.

His gaze fell upon one of the peaks of the Divine Mountain.

Just now, the afterimage of Chenghua had followed that mountain peak and entered the cloud vortex.

What exactly was inside the vortex?

Lord Immortal Sheep had clearly stated that the Third Heaven was the Highest Heaven.

There was no such thing as the "Fourth Heaven."

So... hmm?

Lu Ran raised an eyebrow slightly.

The Divine Mountain was immensely grand, and there was certainly more than one peak; above the Divine Mountain shrouded in the Cloud Sea, there were naturally more than one cloud vortex.

Lu Ran saw the Human Clan woman, Qingying, who had just arrived, at another peak.

What was she up to?

Lu Ran noticed that Qingying was also flying into a cloud vortex following the peak.

And it was not the same vortex as the one Chenghua's afterimage had entered.

Lu Ran was extremely curious!

What was she doing there?

At the same time, Lu Ran also grasped a piece of information: the strength of the Second Heaven could indeed go to the vortex for exploration.

From the recent dialogue between the person and the God, Lu Ran was quite certain that Qingying was also of the Heavenly Realm·Second Heaven!

"Phew~" Lu Ran flickered toward the south for a better angle to observe the vortex Qingying was heading to.

As he hesitated whether to go in and investigate or to obediently return to the Second Heaven to continue nurturing the Mad Immortal Stone Sculpture, a sudden scene left him dumbfounded!

Qingying flew out of the cloud vortex again.

Initially alone, now around her figure floated as many as ten blue lamps.

This...?

Lu Ran's heart trembled!

Were the God Demon's minions all coming out of the vortex?

Were they being continuously deployed into the Second Heaven and the First Heaven within and outside the Divine Mountain along the mountain?

So were there evil nests of various clans within the cloud vortex?

Lu Ran furrowed his brow.

Huangfu Zhao once mentioned that every time he snatched a Dead Soul, he would return to the Divine Mountain with a Soul Jade and attach jade plaques onto the mountain.

By doing so, the God would receive resources.

Thinking back to just now, Chenghua's afterimage went into a cloud vortex...

A bold idea surfaced in Lu Ran's mind!

Beyond the vortex was the domain of the Divine Demon!

That is... a series of Demon Caves?

"Damn!" Lu Ran cursed, staring up at the cloud vortex.

Beyond the vortex were the Demon Caves.

Beyond the Demon Caves... was the Human World!

Indeed, the All Gods located in the Human World were exposed on the surface, receiving the worship of the people.

And without exception, the All Gods stood on stone pillars!

One by one, these stone pillars were directly inserted into the gates of the Demon Caves, penetrating the deepest part of the Demon Cave's ground!

People had always believed that the All Gods used this method to suppress the evil demons within the Demon Cave.

However, these stone pillars were not for suppressing evil spirits.

Rather, they were used to connect to the Heavenly Realm Battlefield and to the Divine Mountains!

"Gulp." Lu Ran swallowed, seemingly understanding the positions of each realm.

The Human World was situated at the highest point!

Below was the Demon Cave.

Further below was the Third Heaven, Second Heaven, and First Heaven.

At the very bottom, was it Holy Spirit Mountain?!

No wonder people near the Divine Mountain could contact the God.

Because the Divine Mountain directly connected to the Demon Cave, reaching the Human World!

No wonder the All Gods exerted the weakest control over the Holy Spirit Mountain Realm and had the weakest connection with the believers within the Mountain Realm...

Unbelievable!

The deceitful All Gods actually spoke a truth!

The Heavenly Realm,

was indeed a road leading to the Human World?

"Hmm?" Lu Ran came back to his senses, noticing the woman named Qingying flying toward his direction.

Where was she going?

Was she not returning to fight in the Second Heaven?

Lu Ran's figure flickered, dodging far away as he watched Qingying with ten blue lamps, flying toward a dim southern region.

"Hmm..." Lu Ran pondered for a moment and communicated mentally, [Ruyi.]

[Present.]

[Is your connection with your physical body still strong?]

[Still okay.]

[Now?] Lu Ran instantly teleported, leaving the Divine Mountain area.

[No problem, why? Where are you?] Jiang Ruyi asked in confusion.

[Continue the fight. If there's any sign of disconnection, inform me immediately.]

After transmitting the message, Lu Ran looked at the dense clouds below, following the lines of flickering lamps from a distance.

Lady Qingying,

Where are you going?

...

Chapter 920: Jade Venerable...The True Body?!

Dark clouds covered the sky, the atmosphere gloomy.

Qingying carried ten lanterns, flying ahead with an umbrella.

A youth with concealed form quietly followed.

Based on the direction the fog sea was rolling on the ground, Lu Ran knew that Qingying was heading southeast.

Where on earth was she going?

"Buzz~" The Silent Night Blade at his waist suddenly trembled again.

[What is it?] Lu Ran let his hand fall, gently gripping the blade's hilt.

[It's getting closer.]

[What?] Lu Ran felt a jolt in his heart.

The Divine Weapon that suppressed the Silent Night Blade, forbidding it from digging deep into the Domain, was it in the southeast?

Lu Ran looked toward the woman flying ahead in the distance.

Lady Qingying,

where exactly are you taking me...

Meanwhile, an unrealistic fantasy arose in Lu Ran's heart.

It was proven that there were Human Clan believers even within the Third Heaven.

In that case, could the Divine Weapon with the "Silent Domain" itself also be in the hands of a Human Clan member?

Harboring a beautiful fantasy, Lu Ran followed Qingying in flight for a long time.

Finally, he saw his destination!

Another Divine Mountain!

Unlike the dead silence of the Divine Mountain he visited earlier, this one seemed to be a battlefield.

Lu Ran, using Extreme Eye Power, gazed at the Divine Mountain dozens of kilometers away, where the sky was filled with "glimmering white dots," which should be massive Faceless Jade Venerables.

Those towering walls...

No, those weren't walls; they seemed to be bronze barriers?

"Huh?" Lu Ran squinted, seeing a massive shadow.

Black armor, a long red ribbon fluttering in the wind.

This highly distinctive attire confirmed the identity——female warriors!

"Buzz!" The Silent Night Blade trembled again.

Lu Ran pressed his lips tightly.

Don't tell me that blade is in the hands of the female warrior!

Third-class God · Female Warrior!

In the Da Xia God Demon system, one of the rare full forms.

She hadn't split into an Evil Demon side, enough to imagine her power!

You really can't define the female warrior with "Third-class God."

She ranked third, due to her nature, because her disciple acceptance standards were ridiculously high.

The influence of the female warrior faction in Human Clan society is indeed not large; some people live their whole lives without even seeing a disciple of a female warrior.

Because the female warrior faction hands them all over to the nation!

Most of the faction's disciples are rooted in the deepest part of the Demon Cave, charging at the forefront of the battlefield...

If discussing the contribution to the Human Clan, the female warrior faction is absolutely in the first tier.

Unfortunately, in any era, there's always a strange phenomenon.

Those who truly sacrifice their heads, shed their blood, and give selflessly are invariably unrecognized.

Considering various factors, God · Female Warrior hasn't ranked in the top two, and this complete deity, if holding a silent weapon...

"Damn it!" Lu Ran cursed inwardly.

He glanced at Qingying still flying ahead, then executed an instant teleportation, arriving at the Divine Mountain area.

Suddenly, a wave of noise assailed him!

"Whoa!" Lu Ran's mouth formed an o-shape.

The intensity of the battlefield far exceeded his imagination.

Dark clouds swirled above the Divine Mountain, continuously dropping black-armored, red-ribboned female warriors one after another.

Just like dumplings being dropped!

Lu Ran quickly surveyed the battlefield, realizing that this wasn't a "Divine Mountain Guard Battle," but rather the frontline of a battlefield.

Countless bronze barriers, using the majestic Divine Mountain as the base, extended to both sides.

Female warriors, as a rare full existence in the God Demon system, could summon illusory deity minions, and could summon flesh-and-blood Evil Demon minions.

Lu Ran personally witnessed, one after another, black-armored, red-ribboned female warriors with projections identical to themselves, joining hands in bloody battle.

They erected massive bronze barriers, extending to the edge of Lu Ran's vision.

Simply incredible!

How good is Lu Ran's eyesight?

The towering bronze barriers stretched endlessly, vanishing at the edge of his sight! How many female warrior minions does this require?

On the bronze barriers, countless portraits were engraved, all clad in armor, representing deceased soldiers.

Female Warrior Divine Technique · Heroic Soul Wall!

Speaking of which, the Faceless Jade Venerable clan possessed flight capability; the Heroic Soul Wall, no matter how high, couldn't stop the Jade Venerable.

But they seemed to do this deliberately, not with the intent to cross the defense line, but to crazily slaughter deity minions.

And between the Heroic Soul Walls, there were illusory, giant weapon cemeteries everywhere!

Various broken weapons continuously flew out of the tombs, swirling in the sky, killing enemies.

Arrow and bolt shot the target.

Spears and halberds pierced hearts.

Blades and swords beheaded!

The piercing sound of weapons clashing was incessant, the battle roar of the black-armored female warriors made Lu Ran's blood boil!

The phrase "united as one" found a literal embodiment at this moment.

Regarding the God Demon, Lu Ran spat in contemptually.

But at this moment, he had to admit that he was touched by this scene of defending the territory.

A bronze barrier broke, another was swiftly erected.

A black-armored female warrior was trampled, blasted through by enemies, followed by another female warrior quickly stepping up!

Needle meets wheat tip.

Life and death alternated.

Only that line of defense seemed to exist eternally, refusing to retreat half a meter!

"Ah!"

"Haa!!" Amidst ceaseless roars, endless divine blood spilled.

Almost all the female generals in red silk had their black armor shattered.

Even the newly arrived female warriors, who had just fallen from the sky vortex to join the battlefield, would tear their armor and flesh in a self-mutilating manner at the first opportunity.

Thus letting the divine blood drift over the battlefield.

Divine Technique of Female Warriors: Black Armor Shared Cruelty!

The Female Warrior faction can actively tear their battle armor and self-mutilate to let divine blood spray into a mist. All allies tainted by the blood mist enter a "Shared Cruelty" state.

Within a certain limit, they share damage with each other.

And each attack comes with a life-stealing effect.

Unfortunately, the enemy is the Faceless Jade Venerable, entirely made of jade, but the shared damage is already enough.

"My heavens..." Lu Ran was utterly shocked.

Where had he ever seen such a scene?

The battles defending the Divine Mountains in the First and Second Heavens were also fierce.

But compared to the scene in front of him, they were somewhat inferior.

"Huff!!"

The massive silhouette of a female warrior flew out from the Divine Mountain.

Lu Ran's gaze was completely captivated.

Clearly, it was a silhouette of a God, but her black armor still showed signs of battle damage, with numerous scars visible.

Her posture was exceptionally upright, with sword-like brows and heroic eyes, exuding a strong martial aura all over.

Due to her enormous size, the long red ribbon floating behind her seemed to tear a bloody wound in the sky covered with dark clouds.

She held a blood-stained blade, swiftly gliding over the battle lines.

Wherever she passed, like cutting through grass, endless Jade Venerables were slain under her blade.

It shook Lu Ran's heart and soul.

"Wang Longxiang." Lu Ran murmured, silently calling his home Dragon God General, "I see the God version of you..."

Such a respectable and formidable general.

Why would he collaborate with the God Demons?

Lu Ran's thoughts were very complex, genuinely willing to respect a warrior who steadfastly defended the battleground, but the other's identity kept reminding Lu Ran not to be deceived by appearances.

"Buzz!" The Silent Night Blade trembled violently.

[Is it that blade?] Lu Ran's expression turned serious, gazing at the gigantic silhouette's blood-stained blade.

The God's silhouette was illusory.

But that blade evidently possessed an entity.

[It's the one!] The Silent Night Blade said in a deep voice, quite certain.

Lu Ran silently flew backward.

Fearful that the other might unleash a silent domain, revealing his true form.

At the moment, he lacked the ability to help Silent Night Blade realize its dream.

The good news was that there were countless Dead Souls on the battlefield, available for Lu Ran to devour at will.

[Xian'er.]

[Here, here! Young Master, I'm here!] Si Xianxian hurriedly responded, seemingly suffocated.

The numerous Fake Gods in the Sculpture Garden all had flesh bodies and were fighting and growing on the Heavenly Realm Battlefield.

Only the Mad Immortal Guardian had to stay in the garden, not daring to move rashly for fear of disturbing Lu Ran.

[Dinner time!]

[Yes, yes, I've already opened my mouth! Come on, come on!] Si Xianxian eagerly responded.

Lu Ran distanced himself from the God's silhouette, flashing to the distant battle lines.

Devour!

Devour in great gulps!

The battlefield was perilous, with dangers at every step.

Yet Lu Ran seemed somewhat like a fish in water, with eyes observing in all directions and ears listening all around, stealthily snatching resources.

This so-called "front line" was evidently dominated by the Female Warrior faction, though traces of other God Demon underlings could be seen, but relatively few.

He also noticed that the Female Warriors did not carry items like Soul Jades.

Did they not absorb Dead Souls or snatch resources?

Soon, Lu Ran understood why.

The God's silhouette personally patrolled the battle lines, and wherever she went, she not only slew enemies but also absorbed Dead Souls.

In this way, the other God's underlings mixed in the battle lines resembled toothpick birds cleaning the crocodile's teeth, filling their stomachs with the Female Warrior silhouette's tacit consent.

Qingying was among them.

Lu Ran, secretly causing mischief, saw Qingying with ten blue lamps joining the defense line.

But this was not her main stage!

Her effective means against enemies, Blue Lamp Ash + Thousand Drops of Rain, could not be used.

Because the pervasive lamp ash would interfere with the Female Warriors' vision.

The little bird wanted to peck food scraps from the giant crocodile's mouth and thus had to follow the rules.

Qingying was very stifled.

She could only do her best to defend and save herself.

Here, the Faceless Jade Venerable was not the biggest threat; instead, the God Technique: Ten Thousand Weapon Graves of the Female Warrior faction, with its pervasive remnants of weapons, could take Qingying's life at any time.

But Qingying... could not retreat.

She had to stand against the hail of bullets, protecting the Evil Demon Blue Lamp for Chenghua Lord, absorbing each Dead Soul one by one.

Her predicament seemed endless.

No matter when or where she was.

Lu Ran silently observed for a moment, then continued to plunder Dead Souls.

And so, it went, for an unknown amount of time, a gigantic figure swiftly flew in from the dim sky in the distance.

Lu Ran was the first to notice the figure.

At first glance, he thought he was seeing things, but as the figure quickly approached, Lu Ran's eyes gradually widened.

Faceless Jade Venerable?!

Not a silhouette, but a vast jade statue!

The dim sky in the southeast was illuminated with dazzling white brilliance.

"Ah??"

Lu Ran was shocked beyond measure internally.

This... could it be the true form of the Faceless Jade Venerable?

No way?!