

## Old Gods 971

### Chapter 971: The Birth of a Magic Artifact

Regarding the mischievous suggestion from Lord Immortal Sheep, Lu Ran naturally did not dare to heed it; he did not even dare to approach the Bee Elephant Divine Mountain, for fear that his body might be contaminated by the toxic pollen.

After gathering enough information, Lu Ran respectfully took his leave and retreated to the Holy Spirit Mountain.

Inside the study of the Tiansha Residence.

Jiang Ruyi knelt in front of the low table, her slender jade hands cradling the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd, her fingertips occasionally brushing over its chubby body: "You are already a third-rank magical artifact, capable of storing divine power of vast magnitude."

The little Blazing Phoenix was extremely happy!

It rarely received praise from its mistress and bounced up and down in the palm of her hand.

Jiang Ruyi wrapped her fingers around the treasure gourd, not allowing it to be mischievous anymore: "Perhaps the effectiveness of your fourth-rank artifact is to refine Holy Spirit Energy from the vast divine power."

The Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd struggled lightly but couldn't break free, so it simply stayed put in its mistress's palm.

Jiang Ruyi wanted to continue her discussion with the little Blazing Phoenix about the possibilities of a fourth effect, but she suddenly sensed a strange sound coming from the hall.

"Whew~" A standing mirror tore through space-time and forcefully formed within the hall.

Jiang Ruyi immediately stood up to investigate, and she had just reached the study's doorway when she felt a heavy atmosphere rush towards her.

"What's going on?" She stood at the door, her voice as gentle as possible.

"The response from the God Demon is significant." Lu Ran came to the Taishi Chair and sat down heavily, letting out a deep sigh.

Jiang Ruyi stepped into the hall: "Could you elaborate?"

Lu Ran organized his words and provided an account of the situation, which made Jiang Ruyi's face turn to frost.

Thanks to Lord Immortal Sheep's guidance!

"However, the gods and demons have not yet reached the level of uniting their efforts." Lu Ran spoke again, "According to Lord Immortal Sheep, the gods and demons are mostly small groups within the mountain peaks, collaborating internally."

Jiang Ruyi snorted coldly.

Still unyielding until facing the true danger!

The divine and demonic camp has lost several generals in succession, yet still cannot unite against external forces?

Lu Ran continued: "I reckon that each Divine Mountain might have one or two groups of gods and demons who have not merged, serving as bait to lure the Ran Sect into the open, moreover..."

"What?"

"Jade Talisman's days are not going well."

"Hmm?" Jiang Ruyi raised an eyebrow slightly.

Lu Ran, in a rare good mood, chuckled: "Did you forget? We left traces of the Jade Talisman in all our recent demon-slaying battles."

When the effect of the Jade Talisman's Divine Technique-Quicksand Talisman wears off, Mud Flow River will solidify.

Still maintaining the undulating appearance of the river.

Jiang Ruyi: "I meant to ask how he is not doing well."

"Apparently, Qiang Xiu has called him to account." Lu Ran's expression turned odd.

Greedy Wolf-Evil Dog and Qiang Xiu-Evil Spear Emperor coexist on the same Divine Mountain, with the Demon Cave Vortex adjacent.

It's clear that Qiang Xiu is quite displeased with the death of Greedy Wolf and Evil Dog!

Lu Ran could understand, after all, when he first arrived at that Divine Mountain, he thought he was seeing the combination of Erlang God and the Howling Celestial Dog.

Who would be happy about the death of their pet dog?

"And then, Jade Talisman was put under special surveillance?" Jiang Ruyi speculated.

"Even worse." Lu Ran shook his head, "The reason Lord Immortal Sheep knows this is because Jade Talisman was forced to the front lines by Qiang Xiu, to shine and serve."

Jiang Ruyi: "..."

Forced to the front lines?

That's going to be tricky.

Lord Jade Talisman was on her list, but now that the divine being has gone to the front lines, how will she proceed?

"The first Evil God we slew was the Ghost Talisman Doll," Lu Ran analyzed, "Jade Talisman is indeed very suspicious."

Other gods and demons can only devour energy by slaying the Ghost Talisman Doll.

It's more like a one-time deal.

If the Jade Talisman kills the Ghost Talisman Doll, the benefits are immense!

Jade Talisman can not only recover all the skills of the Ghost Talisman but also complete its own divine position, taking its power to a higher level.

In the face of the declining momentum of the divine and demonic camp, Jade Talisman can't hold back any longer and dares to defy the rules upheld by the gods and demons for many years.

From this perspective, Jade Talisman would really be unjustly accused!

After all, in the ensuing days, a large number of gods and demons merged, and this practice was recognized by the divine and demonic camp.

The impatient Jade Talisman, wouldn't he be just a complete clown by now?

Lu Ran also said: "Do you think other gods and demons might think Jade Talisman is pretending?

Although having killed the Ghost Talisman with complete divine position, but still unwilling to show full strength in front line combat?"

This time, it was Jiang Ruyi's turn to look strange.

This might be the reason why the gods and demons can't unite, isn't it? It has long been their norm to scheme and doubt each other.

Perhaps the gods and demons really do suspect that Jade Talisman has been turned?

Similarly, could Lie Tian, Moon Spirit, and the likes have also been thought of as traitors?

Jiang Ruyi pondered for a moment, didn't continue on this topic, and instead said: "We should carefully choose our next target."

"Yes, it's getting harder and harder." Lu Ran lamented.

He was already prepared, knowing the great endeavor of slaying gods could never be smooth sailing.

But as the situation became increasingly unfavorable for the Ran Sect, it still gave him quite a headache.

Jiang Ruyi's eyes flickered slightly, she softly said: "Since the gods and demons are lurking in some Demon Cave as units.

Why don't we choose a Divine Mountain and capture all gods and demons within it?"

Lu Ran was slightly agape.

No longer focusing on a single god or demon, but directly... slaughtering a mountain?

Worthy of being my Evil God girlfriend!

Indeed bold!

Currently, Ran Sect indeed has many God Realm warriors: Lady Ran, Mad Immortal Protector, Glorious Divine General, Cold Heavenly General, and Ghostly Eyes Ghost.

There's also a truly complete god—the Evil Shadow Guardian!

If they carefully choose a Divine Mountain, does Ran Sect actually have the power to fight?

"How's that?" Jiang Ruyi sat in the Taishi Chair, habitually looking to her side as she made the proposal.

Unfortunately, the fog was too thick to see anything, but she could confirm Lu Ran sensed her gaze because a shout rang through the mist:

"Ah-ha!"

Jiang Ruyi rolled her eyes with a mix of annoyance and amusement.

The dignified Master of Ran Sect seemed to have some sort of switch on him.

Just one glance and he starts shrieking~

"Ahem." Lu Ran was a bit embarrassed and hurriedly said, "This matter is no small thing; let's have a good chat with the warriors."

Jiang Ruyi closed her eyes, playing with the plump Treasure Gourd in her hand: "This time, we'll try not to leave traces of the Jade Talisman on the battlefield."

"What do you mean?"

Jiang Ruyi smiled faintly and said, "The Jade Talisman has been forced to the front line and can't participate in the battle against the God Demon, right?"

Lu Ran: "..."

Lady Xian Mo truly stepped on the Jade Talisman hard, huh?

Tsk~

I like it!

"Let's enter the garden, come over to the Divine Camp." Jiang Ruyi stood up, picking up the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd and walked towards the study, "I'll gather the warriors."

"Alright." Lu Ran closed his eyes, just about to enter the spiritual world, when he suddenly turned his head and looked towards the right front.

At the same time, Jiang Ruyi also stopped and frowned, looking towards the bedroom.

Tianya Haijiao, shrouded in dense fog.

To draw the attention of Lu Jiang in such an environment, you'd have to make quite a large commotion.

And at this moment, the fluctuation of Divine Power in the bedroom was undoubtedly intense!

[Don't make a noise, I'll go check.] Lu Ran tightened his body, hid his form immediately, and sent a mental message to Jiang Ruyi.

[Okay.] Jiang Ruyi paused, activating the Magic Artifact·Smoke Green Gauze tied at the back of her head, striving to conceal her aura.

Who has such audacity?

Dare to cause trouble in Ran Sect!

And to use a special skill to directly break into the Master of Ran Sect's bedroom?

Lu Ran cautiously flew forward, his heart in his throat.

Such a commotion inevitably reminded him of when he had just used the Landing Mirror to forcibly tear through time and space.

Could this be some Heavenly Realm Dust Shadow Believer or Evil Mirror Disciple coming to investigate... Huh?

Lu Ran halted in his tracks, his expression bewildered.

In one corner of the bedroom stood a finely carved wardrobe, and beside it at the dressing table, the Divine Power fluctuation was extremely intense.

[Not a Human Clan nor God Demon minion.] Smoke and Mist Silk swirled around Lu Ran, gently reminding him, [More like...]

[What?] Lu Ran's eyes penetrated the fog, locking onto the dressing table's drawer.

[The breath of a similar kind.]

Lu Ran blinked, even more perplexed.

Divine Weapon?

The treasure either stayed on Lu Ran or was placed in the study, never in the dressing table drawer.

[Ruyi, did you put some Magic Artifact in the drawer?] Lu Ran silently flew forward and stopped in front of the dressing table.

[No, I carry them all with me.] Jiang Ruyi promptly responded.

Lu Ran placed a hand on the drawer and slowly pulled it open.

Immediately, his mouth formed an 'o' shape!

This... this this?

Isn't this the Blood Crystal Mask that little Yuanxi gifted him?

[My gosh!] Lu Ran was stunned, staring dumbly at the half-face mask, only to see crystal clear blood crystal material inside, with strands of blood threads fluttering wildly.

Sometimes gathering into streams, meandering.

Sometimes dispersing into thin mist, covering the entire mask.

Eerie yet beautiful!

[What's that?] Jiang Ruyi inquired.

[The birthday gift little Yuanxi gave me before.] Lu Ran reached into the drawer, his fingers gently touching the mask, [It seems to be gathering Artifact Spirit.]

[Oh?] Jiang Ruyi was quite surprised and immediately flew into the bedroom.

She had seen the birth of Divine Weapons but never witnessed an ordinary item transform into a Magic Artifact.

To anyone, it's a rare scene in a lifetime.

After all, the birth of Magic Artifacts relies on the item itself absorbing the essence of heaven and earth, absorbing Divine Power.

The cultivation environment of Ran Sect, no need to elaborate.

Whenever fog shrouds, it often lasts half a month or a month; warriors' advancements frequently link together.

From the previous Cloud Sea Cliff to the current Tianya Haijiao, this mask has always accompanied Lu Ran, and together they've experienced a long period of battles in the Mountain Realm.

Until Lu Ran ascended to the Heavenly Realm, it stayed with him, slaying many Faceless Jade Venerables.

But later, Lu Ran "ascended as an Immortal," donned a snowy feather garment, and wore an Immortal's ribbon, this mask was also stored in the bedroom.

And now...

"Incredible!"

Lu Ran was full of joy, his fingertips continuously stroking the exquisite Blood Crystal Mask.

Oddly, strands of blood mist inside the mask chased his fingertips, flowing together...

...

Chapter 972: The Terrifying Blood Mask

The magic artifact upgrade took very little time, and so too did the birth of the magic artifact.

Within just a quarter of an hour, the Blood Crystal Mask emitted a wave of energy.

The jewelry in the drawer clattered noisily, and the poor wooden dressing table was directly shattered.

Lu Ran instinctively sidestepped, positioning himself in front of the wardrobe, while the Smoke and Mist Silk swiftly spread out, catching the turbulent wind.

"Whoosh~"

The Blood Crystal Mask slowly floated up, hovering in front of Lu Ran's face.

It seemed to be scrutinizing the young man.

"Hello?" Lu Ran cautiously reached out, attempting to hold the half-face mask.

But the Blood Crystal Mask retreated slightly, avoiding the young man's hand.

"You don't recognize me?" Lu Ran didn't forcefully grab the mask, saying, "You were my birthday gift."

The Blood Crystal Mask slowly floated around the young man, seemingly trying to confirm something.

Lu Ran smiled and continued, "Our footsteps have covered the Holy Spirit Mountain Realm, you accompanied me in defeating enemies, cutting through many evil demon headquarters."

The Blood Crystal Mask happened to rotate back to Lu Ran's face, still silent.

"Come." Lu Ran slowly raised his hand.

This time, the Blood Crystal Mask didn't retreat.

Lu Ran felt a surge of joy in his heart, gently supporting it; it felt warm to the touch.

"This is how we used to march south and north together." As he spoke, he put on the mask, covering the lower half of his face.

"Buzz~" The Blood Crystal Mask finally had a slight reaction, trembling gently.

"Remembered?" Lu Ran's muffled voice came from within the mask.

Beside him, Jiang Ruyi's voice came, "It... hmm?"

Just as she uttered a word, a surge of energy appeared in front of her, followed by a blood mask, made entirely of pure energy, covering the lower half of her face.

Lu Ran naturally noticed the anomaly, immediately turning his head to look, witnessing the astonishing scene.

The mask on her face was not made of crystalline Blood Crystal Stone, but a deep red half-face mask, seemingly formed of solidified blood.

Red to the point of black!

Jiang Ruyi's celestial elegance was quite out of sync with the style of this mask.

Yet the blood mask, disregarding all else, adjusted its size, completely wrapping her from the middle of her nose to her entire lower jaw.

Jiang Ruyi frowned slightly, sensing a surge of energy in the blood mask, wisps of blood thread attempting to penetrate her Water Flow Armor and burrow into her skin.

"What, not allowing me to speak?" Jiang Ruyi's voice was muffled.

This remark seemed to further anger the magic artifact Blood Crystal Mask!

The blood mask covering her face stirred with even more intense energy fluctuations, fine blood lines pressing insistently into her skin.

Jiang Ruyi's physical body possessed the strength of the Third Level of the Heavenly Realm.

The Water Flow Armor covering her was the most top-grade existence within the Heavenly Grade.

How could a mere First Rank magic artifact breach such a defense?

That being said, the Blood Crystal Mask dared to cover Jiang Ruyi's mouth probably due to the blessings of the magic artifact Smoke Green Gauze.

To avoid burdening Lu Ran too much, Jiang Ruyi had condescended to step down from the Divine Altar, going to great lengths to conceal her presence with the artifact.

If she were to appear in the presence of an Evil God, the Blood Crystal Mask likely wouldn't dare to act so insolently, right?

"Don't be naughty, she's my fiancée and also your mistress." Lu Ran raised his hand, patting the Blood Crystal Mask he wore.

Jiang Ruyi also raised her hand, grasping the blood mask on her face, pulling it downwards.

This removal certainly opened Lu Ran's eyes.

Jiang Ruyi forcibly tore off the blood mask, revealing that dense blood threads were still clinging to the lower half of her face.

The scene was particularly horrifying!

"Snap~ snap~ snap~"

Jiang Ruyi held the mask, pulling it further away as the blood threads snapped one by one, making a subtle eerie sound.

"Crunch!"

With a strong grasp, Jiang Ruyi crushed the blood mask, its sticky blood staining her fair hand.

Moments later, the blood dispersed into wisps of mist.

"All right." Lu Ran patted the Blood Crystal Mask, "She is your mistress, no more of this in the future. What exactly is the specific effect of your ability?"

The Blood Crystal Mask remained silent, without any reaction.

"Hello?" Lu Ran was somewhat puzzled, "Is the Artifact Spirit there, to say something?"

Jiang Ruyi suddenly said, "It might not understand our language."

"Huh?" Lu Ran was stunned for a moment, then quickly realized.

Right!

This is a magic artifact, not a Divine Weapon.

Every Divine Weapon born involves significant contributions from the Human Clan, not to mention the preliminary cultivation stage, but just the crucial stage of aggregating into a weapon spirit requires the Human Clan to lead throughout, with a mutual understanding between weapon and master.

The essence of the weapon spirit is the person who is the Master of Divine Weapon.

Therefore, once a Divine Weapon is born, it understands the human language and can communicate normally with its master.

Magic artifacts are entirely different.

This thing is naturally formed, with no involvement from the Human Clan from conception to birth.

"I'll gather the soldiers in the Sculpture Garden for an initial discussion." Jiang Ruyi turned and left, "You stay with the Blood Crystal Mask for now. Once it fully recognizes its master, you'll be able to understand each other's thoughts."

In terms of language, there shouldn't be a need to spend special time teaching it.

It will learn by ear and eye.

Lu Ran watched Fairy Jiang's departing figure, muttering softly, "Not angry, right?"

Jiang Ruyi: "..."

Do you really think I'm that petty in your mind?

If it were a troublesome kid, of course one could discipline it until it behaves. But this is merely a newborn "infant," knowing nothing, so why get angry?

Jiang Ruyi had the urge to turn her head and glare at Lu Ran.

Yet she worried he might say something that would scare the Blood Crystal Mask, so she simply grunted, picked up the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd in her hand, and walked away without pausing.

Little Blazing Phoenix: "..."

It really wanted to make new friends and play together.

Unfortunately, the mistress wouldn't allow it, and it didn't have much time to rest either; it had to constantly study and comprehend new effects, striving to advance to a fourth-rank Magic Artifact.

Lu Ran watched as his girlfriend, the Evil God, left, then sat down on the spot, holding his face in his hands, with his palms covering the Blood Crystal Mask, trying to develop feelings with it.

The birth of the Magic Artifact took only fifteen minutes.

But the process of recognizing its master took an entire afternoon!

As dusk approached, Lu Ran finally sensed that the Blood Crystal Mask had opened its heart to him, and the two could now convey Heart Thoughts to each other.

"Haha!" Lu Ran's muffled laughter echoed in the bedroom.

The Blood Crystal Mask sensed its master's joy and seemed to feel much better, though it still didn't make the slightest sound, not even a slight tremor.

Lu Ran realized that the temperament of this Magic Artifact was a bit unique.

Magic Artifacts come in many types, all of which can exist independently and have their own temperaments.

The few Magic Artifacts Lu Ran owned had vastly different personalities: Little Blazing Phoenix loved to play and cause mischief, the Smoke Green Gauze was gentle and considerate.

And now he had another silent gourd.

"Come on, let's test the effect of your Magic Artifact," Lu Ran mumbled, transmitting a few Heart Thoughts.

Even if the language is different, thoughts could be easily understood.

However, the Blood Crystal Mask still did not respond.

Hmm... it seemed quite similar to the Silent Night Blade?

After pondering for a moment, Lu Ran summoned the Ancient Bronze Mirror in his hand and arrived in the northern region of the Holy Spirit Mountain Continent, stepping into a snowy forest.

He walked several dozen steps forward and stood by the lakeside.

The Moon Shadow Heavenly Pool at dusk was equally beautiful. The setting sun shone through the snowy forest, casting a shimmering glow on the calm lake surface.

Lu Ran understood why Guan Yiren chose to hide away here.

This place was peaceful and tranquil, allowing one to momentarily forget the filth of the Holy Spirit Mountain.

After admiring for a moment, just as Lu Ran was about to search for the Evil Demon Nether Toad, something suddenly came to mind.

"Uh." Lu Ran slapped his forehead, somewhat annoyed.

No wonder the lakeside was so quiet; the Evil God Nether Toad had already been slain by the Ran Sect!

Now where could there be any Nether Toad... eh?

Lu Ran blinked, glanced over the dense snowy forest, and spotted a silver toad under a big tree.

Lu Ran: "..."

It was a swift slap in the face, he couldn't quite process it.

Indeed, once the minions of the Evil Demons were created, they existed as independent entities, and wouldn't perish with the demise of the Evil God.

Within the Holy Spirit Mountain, there naturally remained remnants of the Nether Toad clan.

No need to worry that the Evil Demon minions were helpless; it was their inherent trait. The minions were essentially the offspring of the Evil God himself, quite unlike the humble human believers who needed to sign a Master-Servant Contract before they could plead with the God Demon to permit them to cast spells.

"Killing one is one less~"

Lu Ran murmured, holding the Blood Crystal Mask with his left hand and pointing his right finger at the distant big tree.

Kill!

"Whew~"

Connected in Heart Thoughts with the Magic Artifact, under heavy killing intent, the Blood Crystal Mask immediately cast a spell. A blood mask appeared, fitting precisely over the silver toad's mouth.

The body structure of the Nether Toad was vastly different from that of the Human Clan.

Nevertheless, that blood mask cleverly adjusted its shape, fitting perfectly over the Nether Toad's mouth!

Nether Toad: ???

The suddenness of it all left the already not-so-intelligent Nether Toad completely dumbfounded.

In just an instant, the blood mask extended blood threads, piercing into the Nether Toad's skin.

Lu Ran was also somewhat stunned.

The Nether Toad clan was known for being annoyingly loud, especially in battle, where they would constantly croak non-stop.

Yet, at this moment, Lu Ran only saw the frantically struggling Nether Toad, hearing no sound whatsoever.

Even with its mouth covered, shouldn't it be able to make some muffled sounds?

This?

What Lu Ran couldn't see was that underneath the blood mask, blood lines like needle and thread had already sewn the Nether Toad's mouth shut and pierced into its vocal sac...

Suddenly, the palm-sized silver toad's body swelled up, silver light glistening beneath its skin.

Lu Ran's pupils slightly contracted!

Nether Toad Evil Technique: Toad Spits the Moon?

Unfortunately, with its mouth firmly sealed by the blood mask, it couldn't open it even a bit, naturally unable to spit out moonlight.

The terrifying energy could only gather within its mouth, swelling the Nether Toad's belly immensely...

"Puff!"

The Nether Toad exploded directly, with pieces of its body scattering everywhere.

Even to its death, it didn't manage to utter a sound.

Even to its death, it didn't spit out that beam of moonlight.

Although its body burst apart, half of the Nether Toad's head remained, and the perfectly-fitting blood mask was still firmly glued to its mouth, refusing to let go.

"My heavens..." Lu Ran looked shocked.

Clog one's mouth, not allowing it to speak?

This was too domineering, wasn't it?

It sounded like something that could easily trigger public outrage, leading to an online exposé...

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Chapter 973: Slaughtering the Mountain

The sunset slowly descended over the distant mountain.

Lu Ran looked at another toad that had died miserably in the forest. He couldn't help raising his hand and gently patting the Blood Crystal Mask: "You truly are quite domineering."

After several bouts of slaughter, he finally understood the effectiveness of the magic artifact:

It prohibits all vocal actions!

This includes any skills performed from the mouth, as they would be firmly sealed inside.

Since the Blood Mask covers half of the face, enveloping the target's mouth and nose, and seals the throat, breathing is also not allowed.

It truly is very domineering!

If one wants to breathe, the afflicted must tear the Blood Mask off their face.

But this tearing is definitely not as simple as losing a layer of skin, because the dense blood threads have already adhered to the enemy's half-face flesh and blood.

Once the mask is forcibly torn off, it would rip away the flesh of the cheeks, mouth, nose, jaw, throat, and other parts as well.

This is undoubtedly quite fatal!

Just thinking about it made Lu Ran feel hair-raising.

Thanks to Jiang Ruyi's formidable strength and the fact that the Blood Crystal Mask was only a first-rank magical artifact, otherwise, when Jiang Ruyi forcefully removed the mask in the bedroom before—the consequences would have been unimaginable!

To verify just how forceful the blood threads were, Lu Ran entered the situation himself.

He lowered the strength of the Water Flow Armor again and again—from Heavenly Grade to Sea Grade, and finally down to River Grade.

Finally, the blood threads pierced through the River Grade Water Flow Armor and penetrated Lu Ran's skin, connecting with his flesh and blood.

It could be seen that the first-rank magical artifact was targeted exactly at River Grade.

Lu Ran personally experienced how the numerous blood threads probing into his throat blocked his throat area entirely, sealing his vocal cords completely.

This mask is simply a nemesis to any battle roar type skills!

Lu Ran hastily conveyed his heart thought, telling the Blood Crystal Mask to retract its divine skills, thus saving his tender skin...

"Let's go, heading back." Lu Ran summoned the Ancient Bronze Mirror, taking a step into it, returning to the misty bedroom.

He toppled onto the big bed, casually intending to remove the mask, but couldn't pry it off.

Lu Ran: "..."

Blood Crystal Mask: "..."

"Alright then~" Lu Ran said sullenly, "If you like it, you can stay here."

Indeed, the Blood Crystal Mask's effectiveness is terrifying, but it's still just a newly born little baby!

Being clingy to its master isn't bad. Consider it as cultivating feelings~

Closing his eyes, Lu Ran entered the spiritual world.

He arrived at the Divine Camp side and saw a group of stone sculptures in the middle of the third row.

"Sect Leader!"

"Young Master!" Voices echoed one after the other.

Lu Ran responded successively, landing closely on the stone hand raised by Deng Yuxiang: "So, how did the discussions go? Have you decided on our next target?"

Jiang Ruyi glanced at the strategist beside her, and Yu Changsheng immediately cupped his hands and said: "Sect Leader, what do you think of the Star-Moon Divine Mountain?"

"Star-Moon Divine Mountain." Lu Ran murmured, sitting atop Deng Yuxiang's fingernail.

It was evident that Big Nightmare was well aware of someone's habits.

When she had just reached for Lu Ran, she had her hand back up with her index finger slightly raised.

Lu Ran, just as she expected, sat at the edge of her fingernail like sitting on a sea cliff, his small legs dangling outside.

"There's Star Officer-Flash Star Demon, Moon Spirit, Yema-Soul Hooking Horse, Moon Laurel-Cold Silver Flower on the Star-Moon Divine Mountain..." Lu Ran swayed his legs back and forth, pondering.

The demonic god-Nether Toad, who has two aspects as Moon Spirit, has already been taken by the Ran Sect.

Originally planned to be used to attract the Evil Dog, but plans couldn't keep up with changes; a greedy strategic wolf helped Ran Sect deal with the dog.

Jiang Ruyi spoke softly: "The overall strength of Star-Moon Divine Mountain is not outstanding. Once taken, Leng Tianyue's divine position would be complete, and Leng Tianxing could also upgrade to becoming a god."

Yu Changsheng chimed in: "The main issue is still the Star Officer-Flash Star Demon, this pair of god and demon has skills specifically born to pierce armor!"

Lu Ran nodded in understanding.

Ran Sect has indeed acquired the Cross-level Slaughter Technique, ensuring great damage output.

But combat can't only focus on oneself! Weakening the enemy's power also enhances one's own side. Once the Divine Demon Camp loses the Star Officer-Flash Star Demon, it would be a security guarantee for Ran Sect!

"Does everyone agree?" Lu Ran inquired.

Everyone promptly agreed.

"The sooner, the better. Hurry up and prepare. Draft a battle plan and I'll head to Star-Moon Divine Mountain to scout for now."

"Sect Leader!" Yu Changsheng suggested, "The Hua Heavenly General you recruited before can be brought along this time."

"Of course." Lu Ran smiled.

Chenghua Sect is a huge nemesis to the Star Officer Sect!

If various stars falling from the sky wish to land on Ran Sect warriors, they must first consult Hua Heavenly General's oil-paper umbrella.

Deng Yuxiang remained silent all the while, watching the little figure on her fingertip disappear without a trace.

She assumed he left just like that, naturally saying nothing as well.

However, a voice transmission fell into her mind shortly after, carrying a hint of comfort in the tone: [Sis, the soldiers on all sides are at the battlefield frontlines, we can't act rashly at the moment.]

Deng Yuxiang's stiff face clearly softened a bit: [I know.]

At Tianya Residence, Lu Ran rose to the hall: [I too want to crush the North Wind now, but...]

[No need to consider me, everything prioritizes Ran Sect.]

[Haha, the Nightmare Guardian really understands the bigger picture~] Lu Ran teased, [I thought you would be anxious now that your good girlfriend became a god.]

[Heh.] Deng Yuxiang let out a cold snort, [I've been ahead of her for a lifetime, I'll temporarily let that little girl lead for a while.]

[You better be careful with your words, don't let others hear! She's now the top force of Ran Sect and the only True God with double divine positions! She could squash you with a finger.]

A slight smile appeared on Deng Yuxiang's stiff stone face: [Whether she can squash me with one finger remains to be seen, but you...]

[What's wrong with me?]

[Itchy skin, huh?] Deng Yuxiang smiled with a hint of peculiarity.

[Ahem, well, what, Hua Tianjiang is here! I'm going to greet the young lady, let's chat next time~]

Lu Ran decisively cut off the connection, looking at the gentle woman holding an oiled paper umbrella as she walked into the hall.

"Sect Leader." Hua Qingying greeted with proper etiquette.

"Long time no see, congratulations on reaching the Third Level of the Heavenly Realm!" Lu Ran said as he casually took her oiled paper umbrella.

It is said that this Magic Artifact umbrella has a melodious name:

Listening to the Rain.

"Thank you for your concern, Sect Leader!" Hua Qingying was clever enough not to stop Lu Ran's impulsive action and knew what he intended to do, "During Qingying's upgrade process, Listening to the Rain has been fully repaired."

"Oh." Lu Ran held the handle of the umbrella, gently shaking it.

The Magic Artifact, like its owner, was equally intelligent.

Listening to the Rain immediately opened up, revealing the umbrella ribs, the fractures on them indeed vanished without a trace.

"A Third-rank Magical Artifact, that's extraordinary." Lu Ran murmured, raising his hand to lightly stroke the umbrella ribs with his fingertips.

Magic Artifacts are inherently extremely rare.

To ascend to the Third Rank, even more so.

For the Ran Sect's cultivation resources, along with the battle experience of numerous warriors, they meticulously counted everyone's Magic Artifacts:

Ice Heart Bracelet, Immortal Binding Whip, Black Jade Tiger Talisman, Blood Jade Ring, Smoke Green Gauze, Heavenly Sound Bell, Tear Star Pendant, Mysterious Armor Order Flag, Earth Yellow Treasure Bead, Wind Barrier Treasure Pearl, Three Thousand Ripple Shoes, Moonlight Tassel Fragrance Pouch, embroidery needle, Black Cloud Patterned Gourd...

At a glance, they were all First Rank and Second Rank!

All aligned with River Grade and Sea Grade.

With talent to reach the Third Rank, Magic Artifacts are truly few and far between.

It's even more lamentable that even though the Listening to the Rain umbrella is at such a level, specifically born for defense, it still couldn't withstand the ripple of Divine Demon Technique.

Note, it was merely a ripple!

Back at the Heavenly Realm Battlefield, facing the confrontation between the God Demon and Faceless Jade Venerable, Hua Qingying was never deliberately attacked; she struggled bitterly, and the Third-rank Magical Artifact in her hand almost shattered completely.

Pitifully insignificant.

"Sect Leader, do you... like Listening to the Rain?" Hua Qingying spoke softly, though her heart was bleeding.

"Ah, don't misunderstand." Lu Ran immediately put away the paper umbrella, hurriedly returning it to the woman, "I was merely feeling sentimental."

Clearly, Hua Qingying had limited interactions with Lu Ran.

She didn't understand Lu Ran's character.

In the study, a cold voice suddenly sounded: "Your Sect Leader isn't the type who asks subordinates for treasures, but rather the person who distributes Divine Weapons and Magic Artifacts to the warriors."

"Lady, calm down, it's Qingying... Qingying's misunderstanding."

Hua Qingying, fearful and anxious, changed from kneeling on one knee to both knees, hurriedly bowing her head in the direction of the voice to admit her mistake.

"Alright." Jiang Ruyi slightly furrowed her brows, stepping forward.

She hadn't expected such a strong reaction from the other party!

It's really hard to imagine how Hua Qingying had lived under the banner of the Divine Chenghua before.

In the past, Jiang Ruyi might have asked about this, but nowadays, she had heard too many stories of suffering and seen too many tormented souls.

In the future, when the Ran Sect cuts down Chenghua, this girl should finally be able to breathe a sigh of relief.

Jiang Ruyi said nothing more, silently handing the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd to Lu Ran, the residue of the Evil God extracted from his physical body, pouring into his eyes.

"Alright, alright." Lu Ran leaned down to help the woman up, "She's not as fearsome as you think, go inside the gourd first and get ready for battle."

"Battle?"

"Yes, I plan to pay a visit to the Star Moon Divine Mountain, I'll transmit the detailed battle plan to you in a while."

"Yes." Hua Qingying obediently lowered her head, allowing the Treasure Gourd to swallow her into its belly.

Lu Ran waited a moment longer in the hall, retrieved the God and Demon Residue from the warriors, then lifted his hand to pat the Blood Crystal Mask on his face: "I'll scout out secretly in a while, don't act rashly."

Worried the Magic Artifact wouldn't understand, Lu Ran transmitted his heart thought, expressing his intention repeatedly.

Only then did he summon the Ancient Bronze Mirror, stepping into the First Layer of Heaven.

Having visited the Star Moon Divine Mountain before, Lu Ran immediately arrived, emerging from a cave in Stone Peak, before his gaze fell upon the flower-laden divine mountain.

Lu Ran, while observing, flew straight upwards.

There was no longer any trace of the Nether Toad clan on the mountain, without the Evil Demon lackeys as vessels, the Moon Spirit minions also lost their ground for existence.

However, the battle wasn't as one-sided as anticipated.

The Star Official-Flash Star Demon combination was truly strong, wasn't it?

Those dazzling stars, no doubt born for armor-piercing, were really a perfect counter against the Faceless Jade Venerable clan.

Hold on!

Third-class God Demon Star Official-Flash Star Demon hadn't merged?

Instead, it was the other God Demon lackeys on the mountain that had merged, so would the Evil God-Flash Star Demon be a bait tossed to Ran Sect by the God Demon?

Lu Ran licked his lips, his gaze gradually turning icy.

The Immortal Sheep once said that a place like the God Demon Sculpture Garden couldn't be comprehended by God Demon.

Those mongrels won't even think that each time a god from the Divine Camp dies, the Ran Sect gains another god!

So...

No matter if you're bait or not, the Ran Sect now possesses several gods and is fully prepared!

This Star Moon Divine Mountain,

we're taking it down!

...

Chapter 974: Raid Begins!

Within the Sculpture Garden, the Divine Camp.

Jiang Ruyi was discussing the plan with the Ran Sect members when she suddenly turned to look to the front left.

There stood a pair of siblings—Leng Tianxing and Leng Tianyue.

The Leng family siblings were both in their forties, experienced and seasoned, rarely shaken by anything.

Yet now, their emotions were so turbulent that it was affecting the meeting.

"The Leng family." Huangfu Zhao noticed the Young Madam's anomaly and turned to reprimand before she could speak.

Indeed, everyone belonged to the Ran Sect.

But inevitably, the old Cloud Sea faction within the Sect could form a small clique.

The Cloud Sea Five would always refer to their leaders as Young Master and Young Madam.

Because Huangfu Zhao, Yan Chou, Wuya, and the Leng siblings had their own Sect Master and roots.

"I apologize for my uncontrolled emotions, Young Madam." Leng Tianxing said quietly, bowing his head in salute.

Leng Tianyue wore an apologetic expression, though as a revered Evil God, she was equally courteous, admitting fault alongside her elder brother.

"No problem." Jiang Ruyi spoke softly, not making an issue of it.

There are nearly a hundred deities in Da Xia, diverse and with different temperaments.

But one ability is shared:

All Gods inflict equal harm on each worshipping Believer.

The more devout and loyal you are, the deeper the hurt when the lies are uncovered.

The Leng siblings were once devotees under the Star Official, and now with the Ran Sect about to attack the Star Moon Divine Mountain, aiming at the Star Official, their hidden grievances and hatred were about to find an outlet.

The two of them indeed found it hard to remain calm.

Yu Changsheng, standing behind Jiang Ruyi, timely eased the atmosphere: "If we succeed today, Leng Tianxing and Leng Tianyue will become true Star Officials and Moon Spirits."

Jiang Ruyi nodded lightly, naturally also looking forward to adding two strong gods to the Ran Sect: "Stand up, collect your thoughts, and pay attention to the battle plan."

Soon, there might be a fierce battle."

"Yes."

"Yes!" both responded simultaneously.

At the same time, in the Third Heaven.

Lu Ran gazed up at the swirling dark clouds, observing carefully.

The last time he came to slay the Evil God Nether Toad, atop the Star Moon Divine Mountain, there were eight peaks piercing eight whirlpools, and now only five remained.

Lu Ran watched for a long time, then suddenly flashed to a position beneath one of the dark cloud whirlpools, swiftly flying inside.

The scenery changed.

The night sky was vast and boundless, with shimmering stars.

A dreamlike Milky Way stretched across the sky. The more Lu Ran looked, the deeper the starry sky seemed.

He felt a tinge of loneliness.

Lu Ran's gaze gradually became dazed, with no desire to explore, yet he longed to immerse himself in it, drifting aimlessly.

No mission, no burdens, no desires, no worries...

"Huh~" Suddenly, a figure rapidly pieced together nearby.

Lu Ran snapped back, immediately moving to the side.

A handsome man in blue appeared, with short flowing hair and deep blue eyes like cold stars.

An Evil Demon, Flash Star Demon!

Lu Ran watched the handsome demon fly off into the distance and followed his silhouette, seeing the undulating mountains.

The Flash Star Demon Cave was indeed a bit beautiful.

Standing atop the high peak might give one the illusion that "stars could be plucked with a hand."

Lu Ran shook his head, dispelling the chaotic thoughts, and flew up the mountain wall, entering the Starry Sky Curtain.

He navigated it skillfully, gradually flying backward with the aid of the Smoke and Mist Silk.

The gigantic Flash Star Demon Evil Sculpture stood quietly atop the mountain, where the divine mountain stone pillars and peaks cleverly merged, turning the rocks around the summit into a starry curtain.

Strange and magical.

Lu Ran looked around; there were no higher peaks in sight.

"Ha." Lu Ran let out a cold laugh, thinking the Evil God stood so conspicuously to better receive support?

He flew into the night sky and, upon reaching the mid-levels of distant mountains, saw many henchmen.

The Demon Cave had Flash Star Demon henchmen everywhere, but in terms of distribution, something seemed off?

Lu Ran immediately flew over to investigate.

Sniff~

Even before reaching the mountainside, Lu Ran's nose twitched.

A refreshing fragrance of grass and trees.

The cool scent of flowers.

No wonder the Flash Star Demon clan favored this place. Could it be the Lunar Laurel—God Demon Cold Silver Bloom—was hidden in this mountain?

Lu Ran's face turned somber.

There was indeed an ambush!

He cared little about the alluring fragrance, more worried about Silver Bloom petals falling around him, as each petal possessed perception capabilities.

Perhaps because the Silver Bloom petals radiated a conspicuous silver moonlight, the deities hadn't used this technique.

Lu Ran remained vigilant, cautiously approaching the mountain, circling slowly.

To his surprise, there were no signs of any damage to the mountain.

God and Demon Stone Sculptures typically ranged two to three hundred meters; hiding such large structures in the mountains wasn't easy!

How could there be no traces?

Could it be...

Lu Ran's heart jolted!

The Lunar Laurel—Cold Silver Bloom wasn't supporting in its original stone sculpture form but in the God and Demon Residue form for ambush?

This explained why the mountain was intact.

This made things difficult!

In terms of magic, the divine grade technique employed by a God and Demon Residue with a Divine Position. In terms of survival, even if the God and Demon Residue were disrupted, the original stone sculpture wouldn't die.

Lu Ran's expression was grim, caught off guard by the unexpected situation.

What should he do now?

He circled the mountain several times. Although he possessed the Earth Escape Technique of the Mountain Lord faction, he didn't dare to recklessly barge in.

Afraid of accidentally touching the God and Demon Residue.

[Everyone...] Lu Ran connected mentally with everyone inside the garden to inform them of this tricky situation.

In an instant, the atmosphere within the garden became tense.

Si Xianxian felt a sudden headache, cursing: "What's the point of having God and Demon Residue for support? A mere gust of wind scatters them."

Damn it!

Why aren't the actual Stone Sculptures of gods and demons coming over?

It would be so great if we could take them all out at once!

"It seems that the support strength between deities and demons isn't as high as we imagined," Yu Changsheng mused.

The fact that one god and demon after another has fallen is established.

In such a situation, do they only send residues for support?

As Si Xianxian said, regardless of the level or skill grade of the God and Demon Residue, their survival ability is very limited.

Yu Changsheng had a sudden thought and said urgently, "Lady, ask the Sect Leader if it's only something like Moon Laurel-Leng Yinhua or if other gods and demons are also using the residue form to set ambushes?"

Jiang Ruyi immediately sent a voice transmission inquiry.

[Still unclear, I'll look for other gods and demons.] In the Demon Cave, Lu Ran responded while flying high, overlooking the mountains.

After searching for a while, Lu Ran's eyes narrowed.

On the left side of the Flash Star Demon's Evil Sculpture, several dozen kilometers away, a mountain peak seemed quite unusual?

The Evil Demon lackeys also gathered there, but for some reason, after approaching the mountain peak, they quickly fled.

Lu Ran squinted his eyes, and his figure flashed.

Upon arriving at the scene, he understood why this unique phenomenon occurred!

The Evil Demon lackeys would naturally be attracted by the intense energy fluctuations.

The Flash Star Demon clan has considerable intelligence, unlike the mindless beasts or object-type Evil Demons. Once the Flash Star Demons realized that the presence within the mountain was far beyond their capability to provoke, they would quickly flee from there.

Lu Ran swiftly approached the mountain peak, observing all around, and suddenly saw cracks on a mountain wall.

Oh?

Lu Ran's eyes lit up!

No matter what was hiding inside the mountain, it was likely an actual Stone Sculpture, not a residue.

[Approach slowly, no disturbances at all.] Lu Ran communicated with Smoke and Mist Silk through their heart thought.

The fabric didn't dare to flutter even slightly, carrying Lu Ran forward slowly.

Lu Ran scanned the rubble-strewn mountain wall with keen eyes, and among the crevices at the bottom of the giant stone pile, he saw an incredible silhouette.

Is that... a hoof?

Ha!

Little thing, finally showing your true colors, huh?

Lu Ran repeatedly confirmed, and indeed, he spotted gray-black hooves among the gray-white rocks.

Hidden within must be the Yema – Soul Hooking Horse!

Whether the two had peacefully merged or one had devoured the other's Divine Soul no longer mattered.

Lu Ran's mind raced.

If the front of the Evil Sculpture Flash Star Demon was considered south, then gods and demons were hidden to the south and west.

So, would the Star Official and Moon Spirit be hiding in the north and east?

Lu Ran cautiously retreated, ensuring a safe distance, then he teleported away.

After a meticulous search, he indeed found two more Divine Sculptures in the other two directions.

Both were actual Stone Sculptures!

Lu Ran was overjoyed and immediately reported this news to the warriors.

In the garden, Deng Yuxiang frowned: "Given the nature of gods and demons, such a situation shouldn't occur?"

Moon Laurel - Leng Yinhua might dream big, staying in a safe spot, only using residues for support.

Would other gods and demons agree to this?

Yet the facts were before their eyes, truly puzzling.

Yu Changsheng speculated, "With Moon Laurel - Leng Yinhua's limited mobility, it might deliberately stay outside to report news and request aid from the outside world."

Deng Yuxiang immediately said, "Moon Laurel Leng Yinhua is already merged; its actual Stone Sculpture should be standing in the Human World."

Yu Changsheng silently nodded, sighing inwardly.

This matter is difficult to handle...

The Leng siblings felt a chill in their hearts, somewhat worried that the Ran Sect might shift targets, and all turned to the silent Young Madam.

Gradually, everyone looked toward the leader of the Ran Sect.

She remained expressionless, her beautiful eyes closed, softly speaking: "In a moment, the Nightmare Guardian will disperse the God and Demon Residue, taking your action as the signal."

"Yes!" Deng Yuxiang felt a great relief.

At this point, she definitely wanted to personally destroy the gods and demons rather than hedge her bets and seek new targets.

Taking a step back, other Divine Mountains may also have one or two Stone Sculptures left outside for help.

"Lu Ran said the various Stone Sculptures are positioned in four directions, three to four dozen kilometers apart from the Flash Star Demon Evil Sculpture. Based on the characteristics of the four gods and demons, we can divide into four groups and engage simultaneously."

Engage simultaneously?

With four gods and demons?!

That sounds reckless indeed.

But the current Ran Sect surely has the capability!

"Lu Ran just issued an order for us to present a detailed battle plan and group assignments within twenty minutes."

As she spoke, Jiang Ruyi slowly opened her eyes, her gaze sweeping across everyone: "Lu Ran is very determined and anticipates our performance this time. He even vehemently shouted a phrase."

Everyone focused intensely, listening intently.

Jiang Ruyi, for once, showed a hint of a smile, repeating Lu Ran's recent transmission:

"Open the group!"

...

Chapter 975: Insolence?

[Immortal Sheep, are you there?] Lu Ran wandered around the hiding place of the Moon Spirit of the Lord God for a long time, and finally decided to contact his own Lord God.

A moment later, a deep voice resonated in his mind: [Where are you causing trouble?]

[Uh.] Lu Ran scratched his head awkwardly, [The disciple is over here at the Star Moon Divine Mountain, planning to capture all the God Demons in the mountain in one go.]

[Hmm.] Immortal Sheep responded faintly.

Neither approving nor disapproving.

Lu Ran briefly introduced the situation and then continued: [The disciple's Divine Weapon recently sensed that Moon Spirit has a piece of Divine Weapon? Or a Magic Artifact?]

[That is a fourth-rank Magic Artifact, a hook shaped like a crescent moon.]

A fourth-rank Magic Artifact?!

Lu Ran's heart was lifted: [What's it used for?]

Immortal Sheep asked in return: [What is the first Divine Technique of the Moon Spirit Sect?]

Lu Ran, of course, had done his homework thoroughly and replied without hesitation: [New Moon Hooking the Sky! Moon Spirit disciples can throw a chain pieced together by moonlight, with a crescent moon at the front end that can hook onto the enemy.]

After reaching the River Grade, the crescent moon will coat the hooked target with a layer of silver light, freezing its physical body.]

Immortal Sheep expressed satisfaction with a hum: [The crescent moon hook in Moon Spirit's hand is similar to this technique, but the target of its effect is different.]

Lu Ran listened attentively, waiting for more information.

The transmitted voice lowered again: [It hooks other Divine Weapons and Magic Artifacts, using the silver light to freeze the Artifact Spirit, rendering the Magical Treasure temporarily ineffective.]

Disarmament?

Isn't this Artifacts' effect really impressive?

Lu Ran thought to himself and immediately said: [Thank you, Lord Immortal Sheep, for your guidance.]

The Lord God did not respond anymore, and after pondering over it, Lu Ran still shamelessly asked: [Lord Immortal Sheep, do Star Official, Yema, and other God Demons have any Divine Weapons or Magic Artifacts on them?]

The Lord God's tone suddenly turned icy: [Can't you investigate by yourself?]

[The disciple... has searched several times, but hasn't found anything.] Lu Ran's voice grew smaller, [Slaying gods is a big deal, and the disciple is just worried about missing something.]

Having gotten nowhere and while thinking of confirming once more, a deep voice echoed in his mind, the tone slightly softened:

[There aren't many treasures that can catch the eye of the Lord God.]

[Oh, I see.] Lu Ran replied with a face full of obedience.

[Heh.] Immortal Sheep let out a cold laugh, [This heap of stones, self-proclaimed Gods above all, usually look down on everything, unlike you, a lowly Human Clan member.]

Lu Ran: "..."

Yes, I am indeed weak now.

But my inner spirit is unyielding, and my soul is noble!

[The All Gods would find the Tiger Talisman you're wearing an eyesore.]

Immortal Sheep's tone turned teasing: [You're different; you'll mess with anything and take anything.]

Lu Ran pursed his lips.

The black jade Tiger Talisman is indeed of low grade, but it is also a priceless treasure!

How come in your words, it sounds like I'm collecting junk?

Lu Ran really wanted to retort!

But... well, didn't quite dare.

Forget it, forget it, let's not stoop to the level of a sheep.

[This pile of stones has held high positions for too long; they can't come down anymore.] The transmitted voice resumed, [Pull them down, crush them, stomp them into the dirt.]

Lu Ran gradually widened his eyes.

Sneering words imprinted in his mind: [Did you hear that?]

[The disciple... obeys!] Lu Ran responded solemnly. No more messages came from the Lord God afterwards, and after waiting silently for a long time, he received a transmitted message from Jiang Ruyi.

Under the suggestion of the Ran Sect Lady, Lu Ran distanced himself several hundred kilometers from the stone pillars, chose a valley, quickly cleaned up the nearby Evil Demon lackeys, then descended to the valley's bottom.

"Whew~" Stone sculptures rapidly appeared one after another.

Upon observation, they were all members of the Ran Sect's third squad.

Captain Huangfu Zhao, DPS Yan Chou, Leng Tianxing, Wuya, support Leng Tianyue, and scout Yan Shuangzi.

There were also a few exceptions: Deng Yuxiang, Yu Changsheng, and Hua Tianjiang from the gourd.

[How is it arranged?] Seeing that the Big Nightmare's fingers lifted slightly, Lu Ran reflexively flashed over.

This scene naturally fell into everyone's eyes.

Nobody reacted much, except for the Evil Shadow Guardian who pursed her lips and stared intently at her best friend's fingertips.

Deng Yuxiang transmitted: [The third squad will set up an ambush here, and the Evil Shadow Guardian will capture the Lord God·Star Official and bring them directly over.]

[Good, good, good.] Lu Ran nodded repeatedly.

Yan Shuangzi's Divine Grade Evil Technique·Evil Shadow Flash can teleport people instantly!

Lu Ran had previously been worried that a Blood Skull could collapse the Ran Sect, similarly, his Evil Shadow Guardian could collapse the God Demon camp.

Does the Star Moon Divine Mountain want to ambush us?

Today, let you know what a counter-ambush is!

[However, Shuangzi will first take me with her using Invisibility, hiding in the afterimage of the Moon Laurel Cold Silver Flower...]

After some communication, Lu Ran and the Nightmare Evil Shadow Dual Guardians used Instant Teleportation several times, then carefully sneaked to Star Official's hiding spot.

Can't help but commend, Yan Shuangzi is truly 'divine' now.

With one hand on Deng Yuxiang's shoulder, she not only transported someone with Instant Teleportation but also helped them with Invisibility.

[Evil Shadow, do you see it?]

[I see it.] Yan Shuangzi responded in her mind, thanks to her peak-level Perception Techniques, seeing even more clearly than Lu Ran.

[Record the Teleportation location, then I'll take you to the Cold Silver Flower's side...]

The preparations were somewhat elaborate.

But it was very necessary, given the imminent team battle, the Ran Sect couldn't be over-prepared.

[Everyone, attention, countdown start!] A few minutes later, Lu Ran's voice transmitted into everyone's minds, [3...2...]

Nightmare Evil Shadow Dual Guardians stood side by side on a mountain peak.

Yan Shuangzi suddenly felt her palm being squeezed.

Deng Yuxiang seemed oblivious to the Sect Master's countdown, gently playing with her hand.

Yan Shuangzi: "..."

[Kill!]

"Whoosh!!" Suddenly, a blazing flame ignited on Deng Yuxiang's body as he thrust his hand forward fiercely.

Gale!

A terrifying tornado bloomed within the distant mountain's interior.

The mountain collapsed, rocks scattered chaotically.

The Divine Soul hidden within was directly caught in the tornado, frantically tearing apart.

"Swoosh~" Without hesitation, Yan Shuangzi immediately conjured an Instant Teleportation, arriving at Star Official's hiding place.

"Huh?" Star Official sensed the commotion in the distance and was about to act when his expression changed abruptly, swiftly turning around and retreating.

"Boom rumble!"

The mountain shattered with a roar.

As the Star Official was blown back, two radiant stars instantly appeared around him in an "X" shape, encircling his body and granting him the ability to fly.

At the same time, two more giant, radiant stars descended from the heavens.

But no matter how quickly he reacted or flew, he couldn't match the speed of his enemy.

With a loud "bang"!

The invisible Yan Shuangzi tightly grasped the Star Official's wrist with one hand.

In an instant, the massive Star Official Divine Sculpture vanished without a trace, and the two falling stars crashed heavily to the ground, unable to hit the enemy.

The Star Official only saw a blur before his eyes!

Then his expression changed drastically!

Before he could figure out his surroundings, terrifying waves of Divine Power surged towards him from all directions.

Evil God-Leng Tianyue stood proudly on the mountainside, and her enormous stone hand called forth nine gigantic illusory Silver Toads.

Nether Toad Evil Technique-Silver Toad Nine Locks!

"Croak!"

"Cra~~~" The nine illusory Silver Toads surrounded the Star Official, opening their large mouths to shoot out Moonlight-formed tongues towards him.

"Impudent!!" the Star Official shouted sternly.

His words, full of authority, would indeed make all beings lower their heads and kneel.

But here...

Isn't everyone a deity?

Leng Tianyue not only didn't stop, but focused even more intently on controlling the Silver Toads to catch her prey with their tongues.

"Bang!!"

The Star Official Divine Sculpture's foot exploded, and with the tongues surrounding him from all sides, he could only escape upward.

However, above the canyon, a circle of blazing Stone Sculptures lit up the night.

Columns of thick flames were launched diagonally downward.

The Star Official's eyes widened with a start:!!!

If the Star Official could at least attempt to dodge the diagonal fire columns, the ones coming directly from above left him no time to react.

The Stone Sculpture appeared suddenly.

The Stone Sculpture is...Yan Chou!

"Bang!!"

The broad Sea-piercing Flame struck the head of the Star Official Divine Sculpture from above, forcing it back with raw power.

With the ominous sound of cracking, the Star Official was utterly panicked!

He tried desperately to evade, but his figure stumbled downward as a Moonlight-formed toad tongue tightly wrapped around his ankle.

Following that was a second toad tongue, a third...

In an instant, the Star Official's neck, arms, legs, wrists, and ankles were all ensnared.

"Impudent! Impudent!!"

The Star Official shouted in anger, trying to cover his panic.

He was terrified to find that even with his own strength, he couldn't break free of the toad tongues, which only tightened as he struggled.

This is... a Divine Technique?!

Leng Tianyue looked down at the divine figure struggling madly and suddenly opened her five fingers.

Nine giant Silver Toad illusions simultaneously jerked their heads back.

The dignified Lord God was stretched into an "X" shape, lying flat at the bottom of the valley.

Columns of Sea-piercing Flame relentlessly bombarded the Divine Body.

"Stop! St...Stop, stop!!" The Star Official exclaimed in anger and fear as a Star Disc appeared above his head.

Star Official Sect's Big Move-Yaoguang Star Disc!

With too many enemies and the Star Official being bombarded by fire columns, his vision was obstructed, making it impossible to aim at his enemies.

By opening the Star Disc, the falling stars would automatically seek out enemies.

But this technique also had a significant flaw:

Yaoguang has no form, the stars fall in groups!

The descending stars could be any type among Megrez Po Jun Star, Dubhe Burning Star, Phecda Cold Marrow Star, Megrez Bone Suppressing Star, or Vega Terrifying Soul Star.

Except for Megrez Po Jun and Dubhe Burning, all other stars are more supportive in nature.

Phecda Star is used to release cold mist and freeze the enemy's marrow;

Megrez Star imposes enormous gravity on the target, slowing their movement;

Vega Star shakes the enemy's spirit, causing mental chaos...

In the valley area filled with Stone Sculptures, an inconspicuous Human Clan woman had been watching the tightly bound, bombarded Lord God.

Hua Qingying contained her excitement and, seeing the Yaoguang Star Disc, immediately raised her hand high.

"Whoosh!!"

A gigantic oiled paper umbrella, eclipsing the sky and covering the sun, flew swiftly upward to meet the falling stars.

Chenghua Sect's Big Move·Heavenly Net Umbrella!

One by one, the stars landed on the umbrella and shattered.

The fact proved that even if it's a Divine Technique, as long as those aren't output-type stars, it cannot penetrate a Heavenly Grade defensive big move.

"Crack!!"

An ear-piercing sound suddenly rang out.

The Heavenly Net Umbrella met a Megrez Po Jun Star, smartly integrating the entire star into the umbrella, thoroughly detonating it.

"Croak!!"

A gigantic Silver Toad illusion erupted from the ground, its enormous mouth devouring the descending group of stars.

Nether Toad Sect's Big Move·Toad Swallowing Three Thousand Realms!

Leng Tianyue was enveloped within the toad's shadow, continuously watching the agonized and wailing Lord God, the Star Official, with an overwhelming hatred boiling in her heart.

Impudent?

The Young Master ordered, kill without mercy!

Nearly thirty years, all the humiliation endured, the trampling of my sect, the enslavement of my siblings...

All to be settled together!

Sorry, Star Official.

The disciple's future moves will be even more impudent, but you will not be there to witness them...

"Whoosh!!" Another Heavenly Net Umbrella rose into the air.

Only then did the Silver Toad illusion close its mouth, digesting the devoured stars and converting them into Moonlight Power, continuously feeding it to Leng Tianyue.

"Ah! Impudent...Stop...Ahhhh!!"

Under the baptism of the Sea-piercing Flame, the Star Official's body shattered piece by piece.

The heartrending screams drifted far into the night...

...

Chapter 976: What Wrong Has He Done?

Two flowers bloom.

When Deng Yuxiang unleashed the tornado, slaughtering the Moon Laurel—Cold Silver Flower Residue, two groups moved.

One group was Yan Shuangzi; she followed the plan, went to the Star Official's hiding place, instantly teleported hundreds of kilometers with the Divine Technique, and threw them into the encirclement.

The other group was Lu Ran; he stood several hundred meters behind the Flash Star Demon Evil Sculpture and immediately released the second squad of the Ran Sect.

Wu Xiao, Luo Ying, He Yingcai, and Lu Yuan suddenly appeared!

"Yiyi~"

The high-pitched opera voice of the Martial Emperor, along with the Canglong Sea Domain of the Luoshen General, unfolded together.

"Wu?" The Evil God, Flash Star Demon's heart trembled, he suddenly turned his head to look behind him.

It was just in time to see a pair of deep red eyes.

"Ah!!" The Flash Star Demon let out a miserable scream, as his vision blurred and he fell into a world of deep red, with thousands of red threads weaving across.

He Yingcai's posture was elegant, her hands stretched forward, ten slender red threads released from her fingertips.

If Ran Sect's third team had the Evil God Leng Tianyue as the Stabilizing Needle,

Then the Ran Sect's second team had the Evil God He Yingcai as the backbone.

"Buzz!" The Flash Star Demon clutched his head, his agony was heart-wrenching, he turned his gaze apart while his body emitted dazzling starlight, his figure flashing rapidly.

Flash Star Demon's tribe's ultimate move, Starlight Flashes!

Note: it flashes in place and does not allow repositioning.

This skill can be used to evade enemy attacks, but while active, other skills cannot be performed.

Despite many shortcomings, it is undoubtedly a powerful life-saving skill, providing precious time for one's team to come to aid, but the problem is...

Not to mention whether comrades can come to aid, just the red threads released from He Yingcai's fingertips completely restrained this skill!

Each red thread merged into the starlight statue body that flickered in place.

second, 2 seconds...3 seconds!

A smile appeared on He Yingcai's face; she was clearly outstanding, yet she was terrifying because her body was infused with poison.

No matter how fast the Flash Star Demon's flashing speed, it wasn't body voidification, nor disappearance without a trace.

He always had the moment when he genuinely stood on the stone pillar.

And in that moment, the ever-present Tethering Silk stuck to the starlit body.

Ferocious energy poured through the red silk threads into the prey's body, disrupting the energy flow of the Flash Star Demon.

He Yingcai raised both hands, and the massive Flash Star Demon Evil Sculpture was lifted directly!

The dazzling starlight on its body completely dimmed, the Flash Star Demon returned to its stone form, and its legs were tightly entangled by a gray Other Shore Flower blooming on the mountain peak.

Lu Yuan also raised his aged palm, his cloudy eyes were fixed on the target, while Divine Power surged within his palm.

The Dust Shadow Sect's control was not weak!

Due to this sect's teleportation skill being too brilliant, it overshadowed other skills.

Thus, under the control of the divine general of light and Lu elder, the Flash Star Demon Evil Sculpture was firmly controlled.

"Wowaya!!"

The furious voice echoed through the night sky.

There was no need to look; anyone could tell that a certain Great Martial Artist had launched the ultimate move, Twin Heroes Face—Formidable Black Face.

Power exploded!

And each strike delivered a terrifying tearing effect.

Even more frightening was that Wu Xiao was ablaze with flames of surpassing-grade slaughter...

He wielded the Purple Thunder Dragon Halberd, black Evil Qi emanated intensely from the flames, pressing straight towards the target.

"Deng!!"

The bowstring trembled.

A series of arrows were released, hitting the Flash Star Demon's face accurately.

Luo Ying's stone sculpture also burned with flames; interestingly, she shot Water Flow Arrows...

Despair filled the Flash Star Demon's eyes, not only was he unable to move, but even his cries were intermittent.

The dignified Evil God was thus executed while suspended in mid-air.

No resistance at all.

Fortunately, this suffering did not last long, as the Ran Sect's output was explosive!

Under the night in the distance, a long string of Wind Blades flew in as the second squad's captain Deng Yuxiang had already shattered the God and Demon Residue and joined the battle.

Flowers must bloom again.

One bloom is Yan Shuangzi.

After she threw the Star Official into the encirclement, she found Yu Changsheng, who had been preparing for a long time, and with an Instant Teleportation, directly attacked the Lord God Yema's hiding place.

Commence kill!

The other bloom is still Lu Ran.

After leaving the second squad at the Flash Star Demon Evil Sculpture's place, he flashed to the Lord God Moon Spirit's hiding place.

At that time, the Moon Spirit had already been alerted, her massive stone form shattered the mountain and was about to go and support.

Towering stone sculptures suddenly appeared, blocking Moon Spirit's path.

"You... you all?" Moon Spirit's expression changed.

Even with a veil covering the lower half of her face, the shocked eyes could be seen by anyone.

"Yes, us!" Lu Ran stood aloft, with numerous stone sculptures standing proudly around him.

He wielded the Eight Desolate Blade, pointing ahead.

Without a word, the Ran Sect's first squad soldiers charged forward.

"Who are you?" Moon Spirit swiftly donned a thin veil dress, radiating silver-white, beautiful moonlight.

Despite its lightweight appearance, this was the defensive Divine Technique, Moon-Covering Veil!

High in the sky, a charming voice echoed: "Naturally those who want your life~"

As Moon Spirit flew backward, she looked up.

She saw Bai Rao stretch out her long tongue, licking her lips alluringly, revealing her seductive and intrinsic allure.

Moon Spirit certainly wouldn't be swayed by beauty.

As she sought the source of the voice, a cold radiance began to circulate around her.

Moon Spirit Sect's Purification Skill: Cold Moon Radiance!

She did this because Bai Rao's eyes glowed green.

As more of the Ran Sect's Lord Gods appeared, there were more True Gods for the Fake Gods to worship.

Some Fake Gods favored the Mad Immortal, seeking absolute output.

Some Fake Gods favored the Ghostly Eyes Ghost; though Bai Rao only reached the Heavenly Realm and didn't control Gods and Demons, there were always some low-minded, mentally flawed individuals.

Moreover, seeing the invincible Gods and Demons scared into hurriedly averting their gaze sufficed Bai Rao's peculiar psychology.

And some Fake Gods loved following the Great Evil Shadow!

Tu Feng and Yin Yan secretly disappeared, instantly flashing behind Moon Spirit.

The black whip from the Yinli Tiger clan and chains from the Prison Sky Demon clan simultaneously lashed towards Moon Spirit.

"Impudent!" Moon Spirit's heart trembled, she shouted immediately.

Somewhat like the Star Official's catchphrase?

Moon Spirit abruptly turned, raising her hand.

Tides appeared out of thin air, hinting at moonlight, with great momentum, surging forward.

Moon Gazing Tide!

In an instant, black whips and chains were shattered by the tides.

The soldiers swiftly dodged, while Lord God Moon Spirit concealed within the moonlight tide, her enraged voice spread throughout the heavens:

"What clan are you?"

As they spoke, Moon Spirit reached out with both hands, sending crescent moons whizzing through the air with a terrifying sound, flying towards the enemy.

The skills of the Moon Spirit Sect mostly relate to the moon.

For example, Cold Moon Radiance, New Moon Hooks the Sky, Full Moon Tide Rise.

And now, for example, crescent moon blades cutting rapidly through the night sky, a skill with a wonderfully sounding name: Crescent Moon · Startled Magpie.

Suddenly, Moon Spirit's beautiful eyes widened, locking onto the insignificant Lu Ran, her voice extremely stern:

"Human Clan, how dare you defy the gods?!"

"Heh." Lu Ran laughed out loud, amused.

The Stone Sculptures present, you don't know what they are or where they came from.

They only recognize me, a human, don't they?

"I, your lady, am just defying you, so what?" Lu Ran hadn't even spoken when a boisterous female voice echoed from the sky.

Si Xianxian stretched out a hand, a huge pillar of fire slanting downwards, forcibly piercing through the tides, directly striking the roaming Moon Spirit.

This Sea-piercing Flame is professionally targeted, indeed~

Moon Spirit fled swiftly, moving quickly within the surging moonlight waves: "Stop immediately! Human Clan, I give you a chance to apologize!"

Lu Ran laughed again.

This time, it was a laugh of submission.

Lord Immortal Sheep was right, the All Gods have been on high for too long, commanding all living beings for too long, they can't come down anymore.

Only by pulling them down from the Divine Altar and trampling them into the mud would the Lord God have a hint of awakening, right?

Who knows?

Lu Ran no longer paid attention to the scolding Lady Moon Spirit.

He held his blade with both hands in front of him, closed his eyes, his Divine Power surging, short hair fluttering wildly.

"Clap!"

At the same time, pieces of White Jade Stone fell into the moonlight tides.

Moon Spirit was still swimming in the tides, dodging the descending pillars of fire, immediately realizing something was wrong.

Present here, she was not the only goddess.

The one cursing in the sky, although lacking in manners, was indeed an actual Evil God.

Moon Spirit's frenzied escape was all thanks to her.

And there was another Evil God, who had never spoken, but had been flying over the tides, dropping Frost Talismans.

"Poof~~~"

Thick frost spread rapidly within the moonlight tides, freezing the surging waves.

Moon Spirit's expression froze!

She looked up and saw Jiang Ruyi's cold eyes.

Moon Spirit didn't know why this unfamiliar and young female Stone Sculpture possessed Jade Talisman Sect's Divine Technique.

Moon Spirit knew that her living space was being rapidly compressed.

If she continued to stay within the moonlight tides, she would inevitably be frozen.

A chilling voice echoed from the unfamiliar female Stone Sculpture in the night sky:

"What fault does he have?"

Jiang Ruyi scattered the White Jade Stone with increasingly cold eyes.

Just because you are a god?

Cannot tolerate even the slightest offense?

"You..." Moon Spirit watched helplessly as the waves below her froze, rapidly spreading toward her.

Moon Spirit made a decisive decision, casting spells again, trying to use tides to break through the ice.

However, reality was harsh.

The subsequent tides summoned by Moon Spirit, in turn, strengthened the impending "ice coffin" that was about to bury her.

Remaining here would only let her stone body be permeated by ice, completely freezing.

"Poof!"

Moon Spirit finally escaped the tides, her speed suddenly decreasing.

"Aha!" Si Xianxian released Sea-piercing Flame while charging diagonally downward.

It wasn't a simple attack.

It was a collision in a state of high-speed movement!

It was the burning Immortal Carriage exclusive to the Mad Immortal protector!

"Boom!"

Sea-piercing Flame heavily slammed into Moon Spirit's back, instantly tearing her light gauze, her massive Stone Sculpture falling diagonally downwards.

"Ugh!" Moon Spirit grunted, her face extremely displeased.

She fell heavily to the ground, continuously crushed into the earth under the continued output of Sea-piercing Flame.

"My lady is asking you!"

The fiercely burning Immortal Carriage was diving diagonally down from the sky.

Si Xianxian's voice resounded: "What did my young master do wrong?!"

"Wait...ugh." Moon Spirit barely opened her mouth before eating a mouthful of earth and stone.

No!

Lu Ran watched as the roaring Immortal Carriage swept past him, crashing down into the ground.

While his eight desolate blade's third Divine Weapon Domain...

Could only continue to charge, unable to be released?

"Buzz!!"

The eight desolate blade trembled violently, the light at its tip blinding.

Lu Ran felt a bit irritated!

He hesitated for a moment, then hurriedly turned to scan the whole situation.

Immediately, Lu Ran's eyes focused, and he immediately sent a message: [Evil Shadow, quickly take Yema into the sky!]

Fast!

My Eight Desolates can't hold it anymore...

Almost simultaneously, in the night sky thirty or forty kilometers away to the southwest, two enormous Stone Sculptures emerged.

One person and one horse, easily distinguishable.

Yan Shuangzi rode on the horse's back, her long legs tightly clutching the horse's belly, one hand gripping the stone mane around its neck, pulling it back hard.

"Command!!"

Yema whinnied violently, its body burning with terrifying Karmic Fire, igniting Yan Shuangzi entirely.

Lu Ran's figure flickered instantly!

Eight desolate blade third Divine Weapon Domain · One Blade Opens Heaven!

This blade was originally intended to pierce Moon Spirit's brow.

But the crazy immortal drove the Immortal Carriage madly into it.

Then this blade,

I'll give it to you!

"Clang!!"

The dazzling blade tip pierced through the god's stone body, wedging firmly into the horse's head.

Yema let out a mournful cry:

"Neigh~~~"

...

Chapter 977: Apocalypse

Yema, in pain, frantically shook its head left and right, trying to shake off the tiny Human Clan on its face.

"Whoa!" Lu Ran exclaimed, struggling to stabilize his body with the help of the Smoke and Mist Silk.

Despite the back-and-forth swaying, he didn't delay his casting, a terrifying energy infused into the Eight Desolate Blade into the horse's head in preparation for the subsequent explosion.

"Behave yourself!" Yan Shuangzi firmly grasped the horse's head, the sharp joints of her fingers causing the skin to continuously crack.

Her sinister voice contained the ferocity of the Greedy Wolf and the brutality of the Evil Dog.

Lu Ran was completely numb!

He wasn't intimidated by the frantically struggling Yema; instead, he was terrified by his own Great Evil Shadow, scaring him out of his wits.

"Neigh~~~"

Yema mourned, its whole body karmic fire growing fiercer and fiercer.

However, this dark red flame did not possess too much destructive power; it was an extremely special support skill, a remarkable effect rarely seen in the world!

All creatures contaminated by karmic fire, if the flame does not extinguish for one day, the wound will remain unhealed.

Even the strongest healing technique cannot heal the wounds under karmic fire.

So, in a sense, Yema is also "poisonous", fighting such a fellow, you must not get hurt, otherwise you will continue to "lose blood".

Of course, there is also a solution: Purification Skill.

Yan Shuangzi always carries Yu Changsheng, aiming for purification.

However, Yu Changsheng's presence was not targeting the karmic fire, but the piercing sound of the chains.

"Rumble rumble~" Karmic fire wrapped around Yema's hooves, and circles of iron chains coiled around its lower legs.

Such an image was undoubtedly the result of the fusion of the God Demon Stone Sculpture.

"Uh." Yan Shuangzi let out a strange throat sound, her pair of stone eyes suddenly widening.

The sound of chain friction was precisely the soul-destroying sound of the Soul Hooking Horse clan, frightening her mind.

Simultaneously, Yu Changsheng flew rapidly, a small pale golden fish flew into the night sky, dropping a golden fine rain with purification effects.

"Rumble rumble~"

Suddenly, five gigantic iron chains appeared out of thin air!

There was absolutely no casting preparatory motion, and upon appearance, they separately bound Yan Shuangzi's neck, wrists, and ankles.

Soul Hooking Evil Technique · Soul Hooking Five Chains!

Yema's mournful sound transformed into a roar.

A full five thick chains, fiercely pulling in five directions.

Yan Shuangzi's expression was sinister, her massive body directly stretched into a 'big' shape, the scene shocking and magnificent.

"Swish~"

Yan Shuangzi's figure suddenly flashed!

She still remained seated on the horseback, but those five iron chains intending to dismember her wrapped thin air, flying off in five directions.

"Die!" The newly freed Yan Shuangzi's hands were like wolf claws, slapping left and right towards the horse's head!

Two crisp sounds overlapped together.

Yema stood upright!

It must be said, no matter the time, a slap is still effective...

The sound of the horse's cry abruptly ceased, Yema was directly frozen in mid-air, its sides' horse face shattered and splintered.

Yan Shuangzi seemed as if she wanted to burst the horse's head, forcefully exerting her strength, numerous fractures spreading outward from her fingers.

Simultaneously, brilliance sparkled in Lu Ran's eyes, squeezing out a word from between his teeth:

"Shatter!!"

First Divine Weapon Domain · Eight Directions Annihilation!

Terrifying energy erupted from the horse's head's cracks, spreading outward in circles.

Yan Shuangzi's movements changed, once again grabbing the horse's mane, while the other hand reached to her waist, drawing out the Divine Weapon · Evil Moon Scimitar, slashing fiercely at the horse's head.

"Crunch!!"

The horse's head shattered explosively.

The headless horse carcass plummeted straight down, its heavy body crashing into the mountains below, resounding thunderously.

Yan Shuangzi stood mid-air, bathed in the golden fine rain, with a deep-seated malicious anger, gazing down at the fallen god.

Lu Ran turned his head, looking into the distance.

On the battlefield of the Ran Sect's first team, a misty fog rolled; through the fog, Lu Ran saw the Mad Immortal Protector crawling out from beneath, clearing away masses of mountain rocks.

She held a Moonlight Chain in her hand, with a curved moon-shaped silver hook at the chain's end.

Fourth Rank Magic Artifact!

Looks like there are quite a few fractures; there's going to be a lot of repairing now.

[Get out of there, don't accidentally swallow Lady Moon Spirit's Divine Soul!] Lu Ran promptly commanded.

[Ah! Know, know!] Si Xianxian grumbled displeased, [My mistress—I crashed into the Moon Spirit afterwards, and quickly climbed out!]

Lu Ran sighed in relief, instantly looking towards the second team's battlefield.

In his mind, the Mad Immortal Protector's rambling came through again: [Hehehe~ Dragon Flame Chariot is really useful, sooo satisfying!]

Young master, your Xian'er sister states it here today!

If there's any shameless one in the future, daring to make you bow your head and apologize, I'll bash them to death!]

Lu Ran: "..."

[Did you hear me? With Xian'er sister here, you're guaranteed no grievances! Hahahahaha!] You could tell the Mad Immortal Protector was truly thrilled with today's slaughter.

Lu Ran suddenly transmitted: [Ruyi always scolds me.]

The Mad Fairy's laughter abruptly halted.

Luckily, she had a stone face, or if it were flesh and blood, presumably her cheeks would be beet red from holding it in?

Lu Ran's mind instantly quieted, seeing that on the second battlefield, the Evil God · Flash Star Demon was also shattered.

Died very begrudgingly.

A dignified evil god, without even a decent resistance, directly controlled to death by the Ran Sect's second team.

[Evil Shadow, follow me to the third battle group.] Lu Ran ordered, his figure rapidly vanished.

The two arrived hundreds of kilometers away at the valley above, looking out, the valley bottom was filled with mist, where Leng Tianxing Stone Sculpture still hummed and trembled.

Lu Ran was greatly assured!

The battle here had also ended, and Leng Tianxing had already absorbed the star official's divine soul.

Good, good, good!

Truly worthy of being Mother's old subordinates from the Cloud Sea.

Steady!

[Go, Evil Shadow, take the Leng siblings to the battlefield over there and let them absorb the Divine Souls of Moon Spirit and Flash Star Demon.] After issuing the command, Lu Ran immediately instructed the Leng siblings to stand still.

Evil Shadow grabbed one in each hand and took the two siblings away.

[Ran Sect's third team, immediately devour the energy at the valley bottom, move quickly!] Lu Ran left behind these words and his figure disappeared.

He returned to the high altitude where he had fought with Yema before and looked down, only to see thick fog spreading from the collapsed mountain body as well.

The headless Yema, dead and buried!

Lu Ran immediately summoned the Evil Sculpture - Soul Hooking Horse from the Sculpture Garden and sent it down below.

Devour!

Devour vigorously for me, stride boldly to ascend the Divine Altar!

Lu Ran led his own Stone Sculpture to absorb the Divine Soul, feeling immensely pleased.

Standing high in the air, his gaze swept over a battlefield, observing the numerous magnificent and imposing soldiers.

Along this journey, he indeed established some achievements, with many elite and strong generals under his command.

It was precisely because the sect was powerful that the Ran Sect had the qualification for team battles, possessing enough manpower to sever the connection between God and Demon, defeating them separately.

"How delightful..." Lu Ran muttered, suddenly feeling a sense of pressure from behind.

He instantly entered a combat state, turning his head to find the Evil Shadow Guardian.

"You go down there to absorb the Holy Spirit Energy!" Lu Ran immediately indicated below. The fog-covered area was vast, and the specified region wouldn't interfere with the Soul Hooking Horse absorbing Divine Souls.

Yan Shuangzi pursed her lips, eventually saying nothing.

She instantaneously teleported away, stepping into the collapsing mountain alone, wrapped entirely in dense fog, losing sight.

A dog's eyes are not as keen as an eagle's, unable to see through the fog.

Perhaps it was precisely because of this that she was a bit bolder.

Yan Shuangzi suddenly raised her hand, palm upwards, slightly lifting her index finger.

Lu Ran: ???

Not! You two guardians...

Are using your fingertips as a Ran Shen lure?

Raise a finger and I have to go over; do I not have any dignity?

Yan Shuangzi remained silent, motionless, as if every second was an agony.

With each passing second, the atmosphere between heaven and earth grew a bit more oppressive.

Suddenly, her fingertip trembled slightly.

Within the dense fog, a tiny figure landed on her nail.

Yan Shuangzi pressed her lips, still silent.

However, she finally closed her eyes, absorbing the Origin Energy while the lingering fury in her heart gradually faded away...

"Uh." Lu Ran soaked in the Holy Spirit Energy, nourishing and strengthening his flesh and blood body.

Feeling truly comfortable.

This indulgence could even alleviate the pressure brought by the divine to some extent.

Unfortunately, it couldn't be enjoyed for long.

Thinking about soon having to absorb the Stone Sculptures of Leng Tianxing, Leng Tianyue, and the Soul Hooking Horse into his eyes, Lu Ran already started to feel a headache.

Mmm... Better leave Elder Lu here.

If I go offline and collapse here, that would be quite a scene.

Lu Ran laid back on Lord God's nail, quietly enjoying a moment of comfort before the storm, while in the human world of Da Xia, chaos had already ensued!

Within the Daylight City of the Great Hidden Region.

Both inside and outside the solemn and reserved ancient city of Moon Spirit, countless people were dumbstruck, witnessing firsthand the cracks forming in Moon Spirit's skin, with stone fragments peeling off inch by inch.

"No! No!!"

After a brief moment of dead silence, a heart-wrenching scream pierced through the sky.

This scream seemed to awaken the entire world, with cries and wails erupting inside and outside the ancient city.

Some appeared ashen, whispering in disbelief; some jumped in fury, cursing the Evil Demon with hatred; others fell to their knees, unable to hold back their tears.

"Has Lady Moon Spirit also... also perished in battle?"

"Some days ago, Lord Greedy Wolf already..."

"Shut up! Damn you, shut your mouth! How could Lady Moon Spirit possibly hide from the world? It can't be, definitely not! It's not like this!"

"Lady Moon Spirit, don't go, I beg you, please don't leave...!" A young girl covered her face with her hands, despairingly falling to the ground, pearls of tears continuously rolling down her fingers.

Next June, she was going to ascend the God Worship Platform.

She was about to become a human clan believer, able to protect her family.

Sincerely offering to Moon Spirit for over a decade, perhaps Lady Moon Spirit would mercifully accept her into the sect, but now...

Lord Moon Spirit had fallen in battle!

Just like Greedy Wolf, perishing in the battle against the Evil Demon.

There will no longer be the Moon Spirit sect in the world, without the beautiful moonlight, who will protect here, how to resist the demon invasion...

"Star Official! Star Official has also died!"

"What?"

"What are you saying? Say it again?!"

"And Lord Yema..." A young man stared blankly at his phone, intending to release the situation here, only to have a photo of the shattered Evil Moon Scimitar burst into view the moment he opened social media.

Caught off guard, he stared wide-eyed and slack-jawed.

"You're talking nonsense!" A man's face turned red, cursing angrily, seemingly unable to bear such information and unwilling to believe all of this, lashing out at his compatriot in anger.

"Stop fighting, calm down!"

"Is our world going to be destroyed?"

"It's over, completely over, all dead..."

"Destroyed is fine, the human world is too bitter, truly, hope there's no next life..."

...

Chapter 978: Little Blaze Pup

December 7th, clear.

The mist shrouding Tiansha Huijiao has finally dissipated.

Inside the Underground City, a young girl wearing a black dress, like a graceful black swan, walked with light steps.

All the Ran Sect disciples she met along the way reacted similarly, greeting her with trembling caution.

"Mm-hmm, you all too~" Yuanxi didn't carry the majesty of the Majestic Heaven Realm, or perhaps because she had just advanced, she was in a great mood, responding to the disciples all the way to the surface.

The sky was blue, with patches of white clouds.

Yuanxi took a deep breath of fresh air, thoroughly enjoying it.

"Bang!"

Just as Yuanxi took a step forward, her entire body froze.

She looked down and saw the solid ground beneath her had sunken in, with cracks spreading outward.

"Uh..." Yuanxi pursed her lips, a bit annoyed.

As she walked all the way here, she was getting increasingly used to the strength of this Heavenly Realm body, yet in a careless moment, she damaged the ground.

This world is so fragile, huh?

Never mind it.

Time to find my brother~

Yuanxi returned to her cheerful and happy demeanor, eagerly going to share the good news with someone.

However, as she arrived by the Immortal Jasmine Tree, she suddenly heard a scream.

"Brother?" Yuanxi's expression changed.

Even though Tianya Residence was not far away, she couldn't wait and hurriedly activated the Magic Artifact · Tear Star Pendant. A drop-shaped blue energy appeared out of thin air, enveloping its owner.

Then, in the bedroom of Tianya Residence, the girl in the black dress dropped out from the "teardrop."

With a cracking sound!

Once again, Yuanxi didn't control her strength well, her tender white feet directly crushed the bed.

"Brother?" Yuanxi naturally wouldn't care about mundane objects and immediately saw Lu Ran with a twisted expression.

"Ah..." Lu Ran frantically clutched his head, rolling back and forth on the bed.

In Yuanxi's heart, her brother has always been a strong person; it's hard to imagine what level of pain he's experiencing.

"Brother!" Yuanxi hurriedly knelt beside him, channeling gentle Black Fire into him.

Beside the bed, the little Blazing Phoenix anxiously spun around.

It desperately wanted to help but was powerless. As a third-rank Magic Artifact, Lu Ran worried it wouldn't withstand the intense impact at the moment of the Stone Sculpture's divine ascension, and thus refused to let it absorb the Stone Sculpture into its stomach.

"Brother... Sister Ruyi?" Yuanxi was astonished to discover Jiang Ruyi seated at the dressing table, facing away from the bed nearby.

The woman's indifferent posture made her elegantly curved back appear aloof.

"Mm." Jiang Ruyi replied flatly, her face expressionless, pressing the Blood Crystal Mask on the desk.

"Sister Ruyi... My brother..." Yuanxi was heartbroken beyond measure, continually sending Black Fire to Lu Ran.

She looked at that heartless silhouette, wanting to say something but hesitating.

"You have ascended to the Heavenly Realm." Jiang Ruyi's cool and piercing voice cut through Lu Ran's screams, reaching Yuanxi's ears.

Yuanxi pressed her lips tightly together, gazing at the indifferent Evil God.

For the first time in years, she had a slight grievance against Jiang Ruyi.

"Hu~" The Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd circled Lu Ran repeatedly, desperately anxious, ultimately nestling beside Lu Ran's hand, incessantly nuzzling.

Seemingly attempting to offer its owner a shred of comfort.

Jiang Ruyi finally turned slightly, glancing backward with her peripheral vision: "It'll soon be over. A Heavenly General has just Become a God in the garden and settled down."

Yuanxi pursed her lips but eventually looked down at her brother: "Oh."

Jiang Ruyi continued: "You'll get used to it, there are two more Stone Sculptures trembling in the garden, likely to ascend at any moment."

Upon hearing this, the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd darted up and down in agitation.

Yuanxi's expression turned sour, and she gathered the courage to speak: "Sister Ruyi!"

"Hm?"

"You and my brother... did you argue?"

Jiang Ruyi turned back, her fingertips brushing over the transparent Blood Crystal Mask.

"Speak..." Yuanxi's words halted as she noticed Lu Ran's tense body relax, and he stopped wailing.

Yuanxi carefully moved Lu Ran's hand, seeing his vacant eyes, like a lifeless doll.

The room plunged into a silence.

After some time, Jiang Ruyi quietly said, "We can't take on the burden of the Stone Sculpture's ascension; we can't help him."

Yuanxi remained silent, maintaining a stern face, persistently channeling Black Fire to Lu Ran.

Jiang Ruyi then picked up the Blood Crystal Mask.

Helping him remove the mask to allow smooth breathing is the least they can do.

The room fell silent once more.

Yuanxi held Lu Ran's head, resting it on her lap, emulating many others, gently massaging his temples with her fingers.

But the tranquility was short-lived.

A few hours later, Lu Ran suddenly widened his eyes, his brain forcibly restarted.

"Hiss..." He inhaled sharply, once again shouting in agony.

The Leng siblings really put his life through wringer.

A few hours ago, Leng Tianyue finally merged into the Double Divine Position, transforming into a complete deity.

Now, Leng Tianxing followed closely, thoroughly blending the Star Official-Flash Star Demon Double Divine Soul, boldly entering the Hall of All Gods.

Amidst waves of howls, Yuanxi pursed her lips, her eyes moist.

The Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd frantically flew about.

By contrast, the lady who had long left the dressing table and was now sitting at the desk enjoying tea seemed overly indifferent.

Yuanxi even felt Sister Ruyi had been possessed by a deity.

Why is this happening?

Qiao Yuansi's expression was complicated as he turned his head to look into the distance.

His gaze swept past the side of the screen, looking outwards where the cool and graceful fairy sat quietly and elegantly, her expression impassive. The noble Phoenix Dignity of Nine Heavens Robe she wore only added an untouchable sense of distance.

Qiao Yuansi didn't dare to think what his brother would feel, would it be like a stab to his heart upon seeing those cold features?

He didn't know what was really happening.

He didn't know how, during this month of advancement, everything had changed.

From the looks of things, his brother had led the Ran Sect disciples to slay several God Demons, so the mission should have been smooth.

But why... huh?

Qiao Yuansi suddenly lifted his head, only to see the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd, which had been flying erratically, suddenly freeze in mid-air.

"Buzz!!"

The Treasure Gourd vibrated violently, and a faint mist began to float inside the room.

Qiao Yuansi slightly gaped his little mouth, staring at the scene in disbelief.

Is the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd about to advance?

With another advancement, it would become Fourth Rank! Comparable to Divine Grade....

Jiang Ruyi's hand, holding the teacup, also paused as she turned to look at the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd.

Finally!

If no strong measures are taken, the little one indeed doesn't know to strive diligently.

Recalling the growth path of the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd, Lu Ran's pampering education did not really work very well.

The little Fiery Phoenix's last advancement, being able to absorb and refine living beings, was a result of being rigorously urged by the Nightmare Guardian.

Now, the little one advances again, it's also being forced through sheer pressure.

In comparison, the Phoenix Dignity of Nine Heavens Robe requires no urging; this garment even desires to reach greater heights more than its owner.

A dog and its leash.

The little Fiery Phoenix enters the upgrade mode, which is indeed a huge surprise and also the result that Jiang Ruyi had been striving to achieve all along.

She had specifically brought the little Fiery Phoenix from the study to Lu Ran's bedside, so the little one could witness all this.

The only surprise was the appearance of Qiao Yuansi.

Before the younger sister arrived, the little Fiery Phoenix had repeatedly sought out Jiang Ruyi, hoping to bring some physicians to alleviate his master's pain.

All such requests were ruthlessly rejected by Jiang Ruyi.

Would Lu Ran's condition really get any relief?

Such measures barely help the patient; more often, they're a psychological comfort to those standing vigil at the bedside.

Jiang Ruyi did not want to offer this kind of comfort to the little Fiery Phoenix.

When Qiao Yuansi suddenly appeared and offered help, Jiang Ruyi wanted to stop it, but....

Lu Ran's cries were truly miserable.

Fortunately, the result was a good one.

The Fourth Rank Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd should solve the problem at its root and truly help Lu Ran.

Jiang Ruyi quietly pondered, taking a gentle sip of tea.

More than twenty minutes later, a fierce wave of wind spread out.

The mist on the island gradually dissipated.

Jiang Ruyi finally stood up, walking toward the bed.

The Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd floated in mid-air, its divine power fluctuated intensely, making people tremble with fear.

Jiang Ruyi casually caught the Treasure Gourd.

"Buzz!" The little Fiery Phoenix struggled a bit, seemingly a bit upset with its female owner.

Jiang Ruyi held on tightly: "There's still a Stone Sculpture advancing in the garden, later, try to consume it and see."

The Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd immediately ceased resisting.

Jiang Ruyi curled a long leg, her knee resting against the bedside as she slowly bent down.

Qiao Yuansi kept his head down, holding onto Lu Ran's head all the time, also saw Sister Ruyi's hand come down, gently combing through his brother's messy short hair.

"Lu Ran, Lu Ran?"

"Huh?" Lu Ran replied in a daze.

The Leng siblings finally got their wish, transformed into a complete deity; at this moment, only the Evil Sculpture - Soul Hooking Horse still buzzed in the garden.

Lu Ran finally escaped, able to regain his consciousness.

His unfocused gaze gradually regained focus, murmuring: "Ruyi... drink!"

Lu Ran had just seen clearly the woman in front of him, and was taken aback by this cold and captivating visage, instinctively exclaiming.

Jiang Ruyi: "..."

Lu Ran awkwardly shifted the topic: "Why do I feel the bed is a bit crooked... huh? Yuanxi?"

"Mhm." Qiao Yuansi softly responded.

Without waiting for the two to continue, Jiang Ruyi softly said: "The Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd has advanced to the Fourth Rank, later invite the Soul Hooking Evil Sculpture in and try throwing it into the gourd?"

"Huh? Fiery Phoenix advanced..." Lu Ran was a bit slow to react, his face gradually turning joyful, "Really?"

Fourth Rank?

Divine Grade!

Lu Ran looked over at the Treasure Gourd in her hand, only to see the golden phoenix pattern on it emitting a faint golden glow, mesmerizing and dazzling.

"What is the effect of the Fourth Rank?" Lu Ran quickly asked.

"Why don't you ask it yourself directly? It doesn't want to talk to me." Jiang Ruyi placed the Treasure Gourd in Lu Ran's embrace, her beautiful eyes seemingly glanced at Qiao Yuansi, "The little one is angry with me."

"Buzz~" The Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd trembled as if complaining.

Qiao Yuansi: "..."

...

Chapter 979: Fate

Northwest of the Mountain Realm, within Mo Gu Peak.

Lu Ran held the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd with both hands, absorbing the Evil Sculpture Soul Hooking Horse that he had just summoned into the gourd.

His mind was already clear, feeling both joy and worry.

The joy is,

Little Blazing Phoenix advanced to the Fourth Rank, becoming the top-tier Divine Grade Magic Artifact under the Divine Demon system!

It can purify the Holy Spirit Energy from the vast Divine Power to assist its master in cultivation.

The worry is,

Lu Ran is still uncertain whether the Treasure Gourd itself is strong enough to withstand the terrifying energy burst at the moment when the Stone Sculpture becomes a god.

"Don't worry too much."

"Hmm?" Lu Ran looked to his side.

"Little Blazing Phoenix was originally a magical artifact for absorbing and storing energy. Now that it has reached the highest level in the world, its ability to control energy must be the top-notch." Jiang Ruyi gently reassured someone.

She was also aware of how much Lu Ran liked this magical artifact.

The image and character of Little Blazing Phoenix are indeed endearing.

More importantly, this gourd is a testament to Lu Ran reaching the pinnacle of Da Xia's geniuses.

It holds significant meaning.

But if Lu Ran continues to pamper it like this, always worrying about any little mishaps, how can he manage?

Thinking about it, Jiang Ruyi's expression turned somewhat strange.

She always has full confidence in the future of Ran Sect and Lu Ran, believing that Ran Sect can pacify the war across the Three Realms.

Believing that Lu Ran and she, will eventually live a stable and happy life.

The two will marry in the presence of their parents and friends, and then have a lovely baby...

However, looking at Lu Ran's attitude, will he particularly pamper the child?

Wouldn't that little one become the Demon Lord of Mayhem?

"So small, yet able to hold such a large stone sculpture." Qiao Yuansi stretched out a finger, poking the chubby Treasure Gourd.

"Buzz~" The Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd rocked back and forth like a tumbler, making the girl's eyes curve with laughter.

Jiang Ruyi looked at Little Yuansi, who is also the child's future aunt, and then thought of the Ran Sect soldiers, each of whom is a god. If they all show extra favoritism to the Sect Leader's child...

Anyone growing up in this environment would be unrestrained, right?

"Now, it's your turn," Lu Ran said in passing.

This time, coming to Mo Gu Peak, Lu Ran specifically brought Qiao Yuansi and Hua Qingying, intending to lead them to merge with the Stone Sculptures.

The two naturally had no objection.

Before coming, Little Yuansi was even informed by Lu Ran that in the next four to five days, she would ascend from the First Level of Heavenly Realm straight to the Third Level.

Little Yuansi listened, bewildered.

"Brother, can I go into the gourd as well?" Qiao Yuansi asked softly.

"No need, you two aren't becoming gods, so it won't affect me much."

"Oh."

"Come on, your Sister Ruyi is already waiting for you in the Sculpture Garden. Once you arrive, she will transmit Origin Energy to help you advance." Lu Ran reached out a hand to summon the Evil Sculpture Black Lantern.

The last group battle made the Ran Sect gain greatly, enough to make any divine or demonic beings envious.

"Hmm..." Qiao Yuansi pursed her lips, secretly glancing to the side.

Jiang Ruyi smiled slightly, looking at the girl who was secretly peeking.

Their gazes met, and Little Yuansi immediately pouted, about to say something, when she suddenly heard Lu Ran's voice: "Come over."

"Okay!" Qiao Yuansi turned her head towards the grand stone lantern and flew over at once.

A few minutes later, the two were both in the garden.

Lu Ran's mind buzzed again, and he held his forehead with one hand.

Jiang Ruyi looked at the person pretending to be fine, ultimately saying nothing.

After all, the specific strength and abilities of Little Blazing Phoenix need to be gradually tested. It's indeed unsuitable to throw all the stone sculptures into the gourd at once.

"Go back and rest." Jiang Ruyi said softly, "I'll take Little Yuansi to break the Flower Lantern Divine Sculpture, hold on for a bit."

Lu Ran nodded, summoning the Ancient Bronze Mirror: "Our last mountain slaughter was extraordinary. I plan to return to the Human World and have a good chat with Immortal Sheep."

"Alright." Jiang Ruyi agreed with Lu Ran's decision and added, "Wait for two days, to see Little Blazing Phoenix's specific situation."

If this magical artifact can withstand the Stone Sculpture becoming a god, then the Pseudo God Stone Sculpture upgrading in the Sculpture Garden can safely be sent into the gourd.

Completely liberating Lu Ran's mind.

The actual situation shows: Little Blazing Phoenix did not disappoint their expectations!

This magical artifact, born for absorbing and storing energy, steadily withstood the impact at the moment the Stone Sculpture became a god.

Lu Ran's heart finally returned to his chest.

He summoned and absorbed the stone sculpture buzzing in his mind into the gourd, and felt totally relaxed, returning to the Human World on the eleventh day of the winter moon.

...

"Huff!!"

In Luoxian Residence, a Landing Mirror rudely tore through space-time and forcefully formed.

A young man, dressed in feather clothes with flowing ribbons, walked out, officially making this house a truly "Immortal Residence."

However, the central immortal in the residence differs slightly from the traditional image.

Because on the lower half of the young man's face, he wears an exquisite Blood Crystal Mask.

The shiny blood-colored crystal stone within aggregates and disperses blood mist, strands upon strands, eerie and fantastical.

It's undeniable, the birthday gift from Little Yuansi is truly outstanding!

Even with the ethereal Third-rank Magic Artifact Smoke and Mist Silk present, the half-face mask pulls Lu Ran's overall style from the world of Xianxia into the realm of fantasy.

A clever balance is struck between the two.

Lu Ran stepped out of the residence, into the little yard, and gazed at the towering Divine Sculpture: "Immortal Sheep, disciple has returned."

[Hmm.]

Lu Ran clasped his hands together and slightly bowed: "I have successfully fulfilled my mission, trampling all those like Star Official and Moon Spirit into the dust."

[Hehe...] A raspy laughter echoed.

It was evident that Lord Immortal Sheep was rather pleased.

Lu Ran patiently waited for a moment before he asked, "How is the Divine Demon camp now?"

[Why not first take a look at your own world?]

"Understood." Lu Ran immediately obeyed, his form turning intangible, flickering into the sky.

The natural scenery of Yeyu City remained as picturesque as ever.

Yet the essence of this city had changed.

No longer did each household hang lanterns and set off fireworks, the streets were devoid of the red paper remnants.

Lu Ran squinted slightly, seeing several brand new sculptures erected in a park in the city center.

They weren't very large, only about five or six meters.

Greedy Wolf, Star Official, Moon Spirit, Yema.

They were clearly not the avatars of the gods' statues, after all, Yeyu City was under Lord Immortal Sheep's jurisdiction, other deities couldn't interfere.

Moreover, these piles of stone had already been crushed by Lu Ran.

The divine souls completely devoured!

They no longer had the ability to create avatar stone sculptures, colluding with the Evil Demon Clan, pretending to suppress small Demon Caves, receiving people's worship.

Thus, these sculptures were man-made.

Surrounding the sculptures were clusters of white and yellow flowers, at this moment, many people were kneeling and worshiping them.

No need for instant teleportation, Lu Ran seemed to hear the sobbing.

"Ha." Lu Ran suddenly laughed.

When, one day in the future, the lies meticulously fabricated by the gods and demons are exposed, what reactions will people have?

At that time, when people recall today kneeling before divine statues and crying with heartache, what emotions will they feel?

Hmm?

Lu Ran shifted his gaze, looking toward the road on the north side of the park, where a truck carrying boulders slowly drove into the park.

This?

He scanned the park again to confirm that each deity only had one sculpture.

What does this mean?

Have people anticipated and prepared sculpture materials here, ready to carve when a deity falls?

Impossible!

With the Human Clan's devotion to All Gods, anyone daring to do so would be drowned in people's spit.

So... is another deity fallen?

Lu Ran immediately said, "Lord Immortal Sheep! During the days I fainted, were there casualties again in the Divine Camp?"

[Yao Qin, Immortal Zither.]

Listening to the names of two sixth-rank gods, Lu Ran was quite stunned: "I haven't slain these two..."

[Faceless Jade Venerable.]

The brief four words left Lu Ran in silence.

The inert transmission voice dropped: [These two stones have merged with their opposing counterparts, carrying the Demon Zither and Demon Pipa.]

Even the sixth-rank evil gods Demon Zither and Demon Pipa fell?

Lu Ran slightly furrowed his brows: "What happened? How did it occur?"

[I only know general news, you'll have to investigate the specific battle details yourself.]

Lu Ran pondered for a moment then suddenly remembered something: "What about the divine position?"

[Objects of such immense value, no one would miss them. Whether the divine soul was devoured by Jade Venerable or divided among the gods and demons arriving for support, that is unknown.]

Lu Ran's expression was solemn: "Without a divine soul, do the few stone sculptures in the disciple garden still have the qualifications to become gods?"

[The divine position is like the Divine Weapon Domain. When the godly weapon occupying the position falls, the next weapon can attempt to possess it.]

Lu Ran was greatly moved: "Now that two pairs of gods and demons have fallen, the divine position is vacant! Does this mean that stone sculptures in the Sculpture Garden can cultivate to obtain the divine position?"

Immortal Sheep gave a negative answer: [The stone sculptures in the garden lack self-awareness.]

Lu Ran immediately said, "Should I find someone from the Human Clan to inherit these stone sculptures?"

[That will depend on fate.]

"Fate?"

[Humans possess sufficient intellect; upon merging with stone sculptures, laying the foundation, perhaps after cultivating for millennia, they can ascend to the divine position.]

Lu Ran: "..."

[What, does the time seem long?]

Immortal Sheep appeared in a good mood, chuckled and continued: [Once your followers merge with stone sculptures, millennia will be but a brief moment in their life span, negligible.]

"But battles wait for no one! I've already begun fighting gods and demons, by the time Ran Sect soldiers gain the divine position, the day will be far gone..." Lu Ran suddenly paused.

Hold on!

A short segment of life?

After merging with stone sculptures, transforming into pure energy bodies, aren't the Human Clan's lifespans eternal?

If eternal, there shouldn't be a concept of length, so what does "a brief moment, negligible" mean?

Lu Ran suddenly realized he'd heard something incredible!

He slowly turned, gazing at the Immortal Sheep Divine Sculpture.

In his view, was that ever-smiling sheep face.

...

Chapter 980: News from Old Friends

Lu Ran used Instant Teleportation to return to the small Luoxian Residence courtyard, gazing up at the towering Divine Sculpture, and finally asked the question lingering in his heart: "So-called gods, do they also age and die?"

There was no transmitted response in his mind.

Only the gentle breeze brushed through the mountain forest, bringing the rustling sound of leaves.

Risking reprimand, Lu Ran carefully asked: "Immortal Sheep, sir?"

[What is lifespan?] A deep voice suddenly descended.

Lu Ran opened his mouth, momentarily struck speechless.

[For Stone Sculptures, lifespan is the gathering and dispersing of Source Energy.]

The gathering and dispersing of Origin Energy?

The Immortal Sheep casually remarked: [Even God Demons cannot escape the trajectory of birth, growth, peak, and decline. When a Stone Sculpture exists long enough, energy absorption becomes challenging.]

Lu Ran nodded thoughtfully.

[Your subordinates who have just begun as God Demons can hardly feel this bitterness.]

Bitterness?

It's hard to imagine such words being used to describe the prideful God Demons.

[If a wisp of Holy Spirit Energy descends, the Stone Sculpture under your command can absorb it fully.]

[The same wisp of Holy Spirit Energy, falling into the hands of a God Demon, might only allow them to extract two or three-tenths of the energy, the majority being wasted.]

[With time's passage, the proportion of energy God Demons can absorb decreases ever more, until one moment, they cannot obtain energy anymore, signaling their countdown to extinction.]

Immortal Sheep's rare lengthy discourse concluded with a cold laugh and additional remark:

[By then, the amount of stored energy within God Demons decides how long they linger.]

"Gulp." Lu Ran's Adam's apple bobbed.

So that's how it is!

So, despite God Demons reaching their peak, they still frantically vie for Holy Spirit Energy.

In contemplation, Lu Ran suddenly thought of the Immortal Sheep.

The Sheep General had said several years ago that it would ultimately dissipate!

With everything it had just mentioned...

"Then, Immortal Sheep sir... um, if the God Demons stubbornly conserve the energy stored within them, using none of it, wouldn't they persist indefinitely?" Lu Ran's words bore a trace of hope.

[Decline and death are irreversible; regardless of usage, the energy within will gradually dissipate.]

Lu Ran silently lowered his head.

So, death is unavoidable.

Yet, for the Human Clan, whose lifespan is brief, even God Demons' "lingering moments" are far longer than human lives.

Lu Ran was inwardly melancholic but then received another mental transmission:

[The Power of Faith provided by superior species and those extreme emotions can smoothly flow into Stone Sculptures, relatively easier for God Demons to absorb.]

"Superior species?"

[In this realm, the Human Clan is the superior species.]

Lu Ran raised his head, staring blankly at the Immortal Sheep God Sculpture.

Day and night, the Human Clan reveres the gods; the Power of Faith they provide, along with fears and despair offered to Evil Demons during the fifteenth night, are surprisingly special?

All energy absorbed through cultivation or plunder by God Demons could only extract limited nutrients.

Yet all that is provided by the Human Clan can flow unobstructed into the God Demon bodies, easier to digest and absorb?

[The Faceless Jade Venerable once told you, God Demons are but a pack of stray dogs.]

"So?"

[So, why do God Demons, fleeing in panic, exiled within one galaxy after another, ultimately choose to settle here?]

Lu Ran frowned, pondering: "Because the Human Clan is a superior species, the faith and emotions they provide can better sustain the God Demons' fighting strength and prolong their life?"

[You can be taught.] The Immortal Sheep rarely praised.

Lu Ran's emotions surged.

To think, lowly servants are so crucial to God Demons, yet why do they treat the Human Clan in this way?

Perhaps, they have been high and mighty for so long that they cannot descend?

There might be some reason in that.

Certain beings are indeed unreasonable; during the previous battle, the deity Moon Spirit was pushed to such an extent yet still sternly reprimanded Lu Ran, ordering him to bow and apologize.

But at a deeper level, possibly the Human Clan's sheer numbers mean they need not treasure them much?

Just imagine, the Human Clan's fertility is undeniable.

Before the deities descend, Evil Demons could be sent to rampantly slaughter the Human World, followed by a few decades of population explosion.

Da Xia fares better, with the legal marriage age set at eighteen.

In some countries, when a couple has a child, they themselves are still children...

[Don't linger too long in the Human World; while you rest, the Faceless Jade Venerable is seeking opportunities.] The Immortal Sheep's tone returned to normal, much colder.

"Understood!" Lu Ran nodded firmly.

From this perspective, the Faceless Jade Venerable is Lu Ran's competitor; the fall of the Sixth-rank God Demon Yao Qin-Demon Zither, Immortal Zither-Demon Zither is the best example.

According to the Immortal Sheep, self-cultivation and holding a Divine Position would take an exceedingly long time.

Why not seize it directly for swiftness?

Lu Ran instantly thought of little Yuanxi.

Other God Demons, like North Wind and Jade Talisman, have commendable fighting strength.

The Flower Lantern-Black Lantern duo of God Demons is a solid support faction, akin to Yao Qin and Immortal Zither.

Mmm... Better hurry to secure a Divine Position for his younger sister.

Lu Ran silently contemplated, turning to look behind him.

While he communed with the deity, the Cloud Sea Dust Clearing Sword had already manifested its Sword Spirit, standing behind him, waiting.

"Mom," Lu Ran said softly.

The ethereal Qiao Wanjun, with a faint smile on her face, scrutinized the handsome young man, observing the heroic spirit in her child's brows: "Are you hurt?"

Lu Ran also smiled.

Others would only focus on his achievements, watching him progress rapidly.

"I'm fine, don't worry," Lu Ran said, looking at the woman's approaching hand, his smile softened.

He wished this hand truly existed.

Unfortunately, it was just a phantom Sword Spirit.

It seemed that what he had done was still not enough, the losses on the God Demon camp were not significant enough to release this foremost disciple of Sword One across the Three Realms.

Qiao Wanju suddenly said, "You've achieved such results, why do you feel melancholy?"

Ever since the gods fell one after another, the apocalyptic atmosphere spread in the human world, those kept in the dark cried and mourned as if they had lost their parents.

Qiao Wanju, however, stood alone atop Jinghong Peak, gazing at the high skies and distant clouds, pondering over the youth's determined face.

Others were completely unaware that the list of gods who died by the end of October held deep significance.

Qiao Wanju was truly someone who had been to the Heavenly Realm Battlefield!

She could tell from the fallen configuration of the gods that her son had... slaughtered an entire mountain!

"I..." Faced with his mother's inquiry, Lu Ran hesitated to speak.

"Hmm?" Qiao Wanjun slightly raised an eyebrow.

"I want to battle alongside you," Lu Ran said solemnly.

"Hehe~" Qiao Wanjun chuckled softly, finger gently tapping Lu Ran's brow, though the illusory fingers couldn't truly touch his forehead.

Lu Ran stared into the woman's eyes: "It seems I need to slaughter a few more Divine Mountains."

A hint of emotion appeared in Qiao Wanjun's eyes.

At this moment, the phrase "youthful spirit" seemed to have its best interpretation.

"By the way." Lu Ran took out the Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd from his waist, presenting it to his mother, "Yuanxi has already merged with the Flower Lantern - Black Lantern Stone Sculpture and is now advancing towards the Third Level of the Heavenly Realm."

Qiao Wanjun lowered her gaze to the radiant Treasure Gourd.

It's hard to imagine that the girl who used to be so playful would be associated with terms like "Third Level of the Heavenly Realm."

Yet under her son's protection, the little one was about to reach the peak of the Human Clan.

"I will soon secure a Divine Position for little Yuanxi, allowing her to become a god," Lu Ran patted the plump Treasure Gourd.

"Flower Lantern, along with Skyspear, and Cloud Mace, share the same Divine Mountain; they cooperate well, be careful," Qiao Wanjun finally spoke.

Fourth-class God-Skyspear.

Fifth-class God·Cloud Mace.

Both God's combat power was quite impressive, especially the fourth-ranked Skyspear, which was noteworthy.

This was a handsome, courageous male Divine Sculpture, skilled in wielding a long spear, with unrivaled martial arts.

If Cold Plum was honored as the little Sword One.

Then Skyspear might be called "Little Qiang Xiu."

Just from this nickname alone, one could discern the combat prowess of this Divine Sculpture, definitely not a flashy spearhead with no substance.

"I'll pay attention," Lu Ran nodded, then bade goodbye, "Mom, I need to go back."

"Go on," Qiao Wanjun stood with her hands behind her back, a trace of encouragement in her eyes.

Lu Ran summoned the Ancient Bronze Mirror, suddenly turning to look at the Divine Sculpture: "Immortal Sheep Master, disciple will continue executing tasks, you... is there anything disciple should pay attention to?"

The god remained silent.

Lu Ran set his heart! Since there were no special reminders, he would proceed as usual.

"Huh!!"

The Landing Mirror tore through space-time, the Sword Spirit merged into the Cloud Sea Sword.

Lu Ran bowed respectfully to the Divine Sculpture, striding into the mirror.

Returning to Heaven's Edge, he slowly raised his head, gazing at the sky filled with dark clouds, feeling a trace of oppression.

Part of the Ran Sect soldiers led by Qiao Yuansi were still advancing within the Treasure Gourd, today first research battle plans.....

[Master.]

[Huh?] Lu Ran responded instinctively.

Within the Ran Sect, Yan Shuangzi was almost the only one able to directly communicate with Lu Ran without needing prayers or pleas.

After all, the Ran Dog would anytime utilize Greedy Wolf, Evil Dog skills, always closely linked to the Great Evil Shadow.

[The Shadow Guard Team just brought news, the uncle-nephew of the Wang Family appeared at Qianhua Ridge.]

[Oh?] Lu Ran's mind stirred.

The uncle-nephew duo had been traveling for almost a month; they finally arrived?

[We were just in the human world, the Shadow Guard couldn't reach us, temporarily housing the two in the River Valley dwelling.]

[Alright, I'll take a look.] Lu Ran summoned the Ancient Bronze Mirror in his hand, suddenly recalling something.

He searched through the garden, connecting with the two Stone Sculptures—Sky Phoenix and Soul Splitting Bull (Demon): [Yiren, Bull Head, could you both come to Heaven's Edge.]

The sudden transmission interrupted the two's diligent cultivation.

[Yes.] Guan Yiren's voice was very commanding and pleasant.

[Alright, Brother Ran, I'm on my way!] Niu Zhengzheng's transmission sounded no different from his hoarse real speaking voice.

And that one call of Brother Ran really amused Lu Ran.

The unchanged form of address, of course, was something he strictly demanded.

He just hoped that upon meeting, Niu Zhengzheng could maintain his rugged, boisterous style and not turn into a timid little lamb.

...