

Old Gods 981

Chapter 981: Sunset Youth

The Qianhua Mountain Ridge in the afternoon was peaceful and serene.

Occasionally, a gentle breeze would blow by, causing the sea of flowers to sway like waves.

A tall, disheveled man in black stood silently by the riverbank, gazing at the beautiful scene.

So, there's such a pure place in this harsh Holy Spirit Mountain.

No wonder Lu Tianjiao chose to meet here.

Having not seen him for many years, it's uncertain what realm he's in now. Unless something went wrong, he should have reached the Sea Realm by now, right?

Maybe he's at the high ranks of the Sea Realm, or even at the peak of the Sea Realm?

Without absolute strength, how could he have snuck into Rust City unnoticed, undetected?

And at the last moment when Lord Qiang Xiu sent the disciples away, how did he slip a small note into his nephew's palm...

For a whole month, the Wang family uncle and nephew couldn't figure out how that note appeared.

"Phew~"

By the riverbank, a surge of energy churned.

Wang Quan turned his head and saw the bronze mirror of the Evil Mirror Demon faction. With a casual grasp, the black long spear behind him flew into his palm.

Yet the tall figure that walked out of the mirror left Wang Quan startled.

Niu Zhengzheng?

Wang Quan naturally knew about the teammates in his nephew's squad.

The overly tall and burly Niu Zhengzheng had a highly recognizable appearance, hard to mistake.

What shocked Wang Quan even more was that judging from Niu Zhengzheng's aura and energy fluctuations, the kid might be one or two ranks higher than him.

Sea Realm, Fourth Rank?

"Uncle Wang!" Niu Zhengzheng grinned, his face so dark that his neat teeth appeared particularly white.

Wang Quan silently nodded.

He vaguely remembered that Niu Zhengzheng ranked second to last in Wang Ling's team regarding strength.

The one ranked last was Lu Tianjiao's sister, Qiao Yuansi.

"Oh no!" Niu Zhengzheng suddenly slapped himself and quickly stepped aside.

Wang Quan remained silent, and as the burly man moved away, he saw a woman in white walk out of the mirror.

Guan Yiren saw Wang Quan at a glance and nodded gently, "Uncle Wang."

Wang Quan still said nothing.

Another Sea Realm Fourth Rank?!

It seems this harsh Holy Spirit Mountain truly spurs growth.

His nephew had already fallen far behind his two teammates.

Suddenly, the three by the riverbank turned their heads simultaneously.

A tall, thin figure appeared and disappeared, disbelief in his eyes.

"Niu... Niu-head?" Wang Ling grabbed Niu Zhengzheng's strong arm, looking up at the big dark-faced man, utterly bewildered.

A familiar face in a foreign land!

And on this Holy Spirit Mountain Realm, which is far from the human world!

This reunion even made Wang Ling feel like he was dreaming.

"Haha!" Niu Zhengzheng's hearty laugh erupted as he fiercely hugged Wang Ling, his large hand heavily slapping the other's back, "I missed you like crazy, haha!"

"Lighten up, lighten up..." Wang Ling was filled with joy, but his Water Flow Armor on his back was clanging loudly under the force.

"I say! What's up with you? How did you become so skinny like a little chick?" Niu Zhengzheng released his old comrade, looking Wang Ling's skinny frame up and down.

"I... Yiren?" Wang Ling was stunned again, his gaze falling on the woman's fair and beautiful face.

Guan Yiren watched her old friend with a smile.

She was different from Niu Zhengzheng, not a tender flower raised in a greenhouse by Lu Ran.

She had roamed the Mountain Realm, seen everything, and experienced everything. Feeling an extreme aversion to this dirty world, she then fled to the Moon Shadow Heavenly Pool to escape from the hustle and bustle.

Beneath that cold lake, she had plenty of time to sort out her thoughts and recollect past memories.

The faces of Niu Zhengzheng, Wang Ling, and Qiao Yuansi had all flashed through her mind.

She thought she'd never see them again in this life.

Yet unexpectedly, a brother who cherished his sister took her to the Moon Shadow Heavenly Pool for a trip, and it changed her life path completely.

"Look out!" Wang Ling's eyes tensed as he saw a hand reach out from the Landing Mirror behind Guan Yiren, poking the girl's back.

With a reminder on his lips and a subconscious action, he had lunged forward with his spear in an instant.

Guan Yiren frowned slightly, a pair of pure white Simurgh Wings spread instantly behind her, shielding the hand.

"Clang!"

The spear tip clashed with the seemingly soft wings, producing a piercing metallic sound.

"Yiren?" Wang Ling was utterly confused.

Seeing his old friends one after another let him momentarily ignore the mirror until a hand reached out from it, prompting Wang Ling to intervene intuitively.

However...

Wang Ling didn't understand where the Evil Mirror Demon's Evil Technique came from.

Nor did he understand why Guan Yiren, formerly a Sword Cultivator, would reveal a pair of holy Simurgh Wings.

Not far away, Wang Quan, always with a stony expression, suddenly widened his eyes!

The youth that walked out of the mirror made the brilliant Qianhua Ridge lose its color.

"Gulp." Wang Ling swallowed.

Due to Guan Yiren's wide and long wings covering his front, his entire field of view was blocked.

Wang Ling couldn't see anything, but he felt a terrifying pressure, like an invisible giant wave pressing down, intimidating his spirit.

"Uncle Wang, long time no see." The muffled voice sounded from behind a mask.

Wang Quan pursed his lips, ultimately saying nothing.

It was hard for him to associate this mysterious youth with Da Xia's first genius.

The Lu Tianjiao in his memory was handsome and valiant.

This youth before him... hmm, seemed like someone who had fallen into the trap of an evil cultivator, uttering the nasal passages completely sealed by a malicious magic artifact.

Indeed, the lower half of the youth's face was adorned with a strange "instrument of punishment."

But his feathered garments fluttered elegantly, faintly revealing an ethereal immortal aura.

"Still so few words, huh." Lu Ran smiled and turned around, reaching out to gently tug on the edge of the Simurgh Wings.

Guan Yiren trembled lightly, her lips tightly pressed together.

"Ran... Brother Ran?" Wang Ling also widened his eyes, speaking in stammering tones.

"Goodness~" Lu Ran couldn't help but tease, "No wonder Little Yuansi calls you a skeleton, you truly fit the part, huh?"

Once, Wang Ling stood as firm as a pine!

The present Wang Ling stands like a pole, heading directly towards the "skull".

"Sect Leader."

"Sect Leader!" Four figures appear out of thin air, kneeling and bowing.

"You worked hard." Lu Ran takes out a tea bag and tosses it to one person, "Leave one person, the others can return to rest."

"Yes." Shadow One goes to brew tea, while the other three return to Tianya Haijiao.

Only when Lu Ran disperses the Landing Mirror do the Wang family's uncle and nephew realize that the Evil Mirror Magic was indeed from Lu Ran!

"You go inside to chat, I'll come over in a moment." Lu Ran gently strokes the pure white Simurgh Wings, slightly mischievous, flicking the tips of the feathers with his fingers.

Guan Yiren's body trembles again, quickly retracting the pure white wings.

She keeps her head low, softly responding: "Okay."

"Come on, come on!" Niu Zhengzheng grabs Wang Ling's shoulder, hastily leading the surprised and confused teammates away.

Lu Ran gazes at the man standing afar, "Wang Uncle should go over too, Yiren has much she wants to say to you."

"What's your Realm?" Wang Quan finally speaks.

With a unique smoky voice, he pulls Lu Ran back to the fifteenth night of Night of Ghosts + the descent of the Demon Lord.

"Above the Sea Realm." Lu Ran says in a muffled voice.

Wang Quan pauses silently, hoarsely saying: "Yet I feel like I'm facing a god."

Lu Ran: "..."

Just facing a god?

If I were to bring out my fiancée, wouldn't it kill you?

Lu Ran shakes his head and smiles, truthfully responding: "Two Great Realms above the Sea Realm."

Wang Quan struggles to control his expression, his heart quietly trembling.

The two had met only once, during the night the Evil Spear Emperor Clan invaded Rain Alley City.

The former Pride of Da Xia was merely First Rank of River Realm, while Wang Quan was Middle Rank of River Realm at the time, helping Lu Ran guard his hometown.

Wang Quan thought he already had a high opinion of Lu Ran.

Even imagining that after many years, upon meeting again, the young man might become a Great Power of Sea Realm Peak.

But reality...

"Wang Uncle, enter the house." Lu Ran speaks again.

"The Dawn Blade, what Rank has it reached?" Wang Quan's Divine Weapon Spear informs its master that the young man bears a multitude of divine weapons and magic artifacts, with a daunting presence!

Wang Quan inevitably recalls the fifteenth night when Lu Tianjiao wielded the Dawn Blade, releasing rays of light akin to satin, slaying a Jiang Realm Demon Lord.

Upon hearing this, Lu Ran's smile freezes on his face.

Look at you!

Only saying things that hurt!

Wang Quan seems to realize something, silently nods, and strides away.

Leaving Lu Ran alone by the riverbank, as if struck by lightning.

Upon reaching Qianhua Ridge, Lu Ran recalls Leng Xushuang, his intent was to have the young lady dance gracefully amidst the sea of flowers.

But Wang Quan's words killed Lu Ran's mood.

"Sigh..." Lu Ran reaches into his feather robe, drawing the Dawn Blade from his waist.

There weren't many relics left by his father.

The Dawn Blade was the most helpful to Lu Ran during his growth years in the Human World.

Yet later, Lu Ran obtained the Eight Desolate Annihilation Blade.

The Dawn Blade gradually faded into a secondary role, silently accompanying from the side.

Lu Ran sits cross-legged, placing the Black Ice Blade flatly on his knees, gazing at the delicate, transparent blade in silent contemplation.

Perhaps, one day when Dawn truly comprehends the Second Divine Weapon Domain, Lu Ran will laugh at his own foolishness.

It's so simple, yet a man and a blade have delayed it for so many years.

But before understanding, who would know what form the Second Domain takes?

"Buzz~" The Dawn Blade gently trembles, as if to comfort its master.

Lu Ran lowers two fingers, gently stroking the cool blade.

Clouds roll and unfurl, the sea of flowers undulates.

The sun gradually descends westward, the afternoon transforming into dusk.

Everything between heaven and earth changes, yet the young man by the riverside remains like an old monk in meditation, one hand on the blade, gazing into the western sky.

Suddenly, a surge of energy flows through the blade, as the Sword Spirit appears.

The meditative youth finally awakens, turning his head towards the side, seeing a combat uniform both unfamiliar and familiar.

Lu Ran has four Divine Weapons, their Sword Spirits bearing similar appearances, from the young and inexperienced boy to the heroic young man, with attire vastly different.

The Dawn Blade Spirit wears a black combat uniform.

It's the clothing Lu Ran often wore during wars and trials in the Human World.

The Silent Night Blade Spirit has rarely appeared, but Lu Ran knows its attire, draped in a yellow raincoat.

Like in the past on Rain Alley streets, the boy followed closely behind the Big Nightmare, silently advancing.

The Eight Desolate Blade Spirit wears a green coir raincoat and a blue bamboo hat, like a youthful hero wandering through the Holy Spirit Mountain Realm, its eyes filled with an impressive desire for destruction.

The Cloud Sea Blade Spirit is clad in a wide white robe, as light as wind and clouds, floating, almost like an Immortal.

"Dawn?" Lu Ran calls softly.

[Keep looking towards the horizon.]

Lu Ran once again gazes towards the west, where the beautiful sunset fills the sky, the fiery clouds burning at the horizon.

The Dawn Blade Spirit: [This scenery gives me a very special feeling.]

"Could this be your Second Divine Weapon Domain?" Lu Ran's heart begins to pound.

Yet the Dawn Blade Spirit gently shakes its head: [I long for it, but it is very distant from me.]

"Very distant?"

[I cannot leap over the Second Divine Weapon Domain and directly possess it.]

Lu Ran gazes in a daze at the Dawn Blade Spirit.

Is the Dawn Blade implying that within this scene lies what could very well be the Third Divine Weapon Domain?

Lu Ran suddenly laughs, a smile filled with helplessness.

The Sword Spirit bends over, placing a hand on his shoulder, "Don't be downhearted, we'll always have that moment of epiphany."

"Hmm..." Lu Ran looks at the Sword Spirit before him.

The eyes of young Lu Ran are bright and spirited.

The warm smile remains as ever.

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Chapter 982: The Lu Family's Triple Leap

"What did you say?"

Inside the house in the river valley, a voice of disbelief came from Wang Ling.

At the wooden table in the living room, the uncle and nephew of the Wang family sat face to face with Guan Yiren and Niu Zhengzheng.

Wang Ling held the teacup, staring blankly at Guan Yiren: "But... but the official report said it was Lord Jade Talisman and Lord Dry Sea who jointly killed the Ghost Talisman Doll."

"Heh." Guan Yiren sneered.

"Don't be naive, brother." Niu Zhengzheng grinned widely, showing the same disdainful expression, "God and Demon were always one group!"

Wang Ling turned his head, looking foolishly at Wang Quan.

Wang Quan's face was solemn and he didn't make any comments.

Niu Zhengzheng continued to shout: "The gods feed on faith, the demons feed on emotions!

Gods and demons are like a group of big mosquitoes, hanging onto the human clan, eager to suck us dry!"

The world still thinks the gods exert their power to slay the demons, leading the human clan to dawn?

Quit kidding!

"He killed it." Guan Yiren turned her gaze to the window, looking at the young man sitting quietly by the riverside.

"Was it... Brother Ran who killed the Ghost Talisman Doll?" Wang Ling's eyes were terrified, also gazing out the window.

Such shocking words, if spoken by someone else, Wang Ling wouldn't believe them.

But these words came directly from Guan Yiren.

Wang Ling admittedly was a die-hard fan of Lu Ran, always looking up to the top Heavenly Pride of Da Xia.

But admiration aside, you...

You can be unmatched in your generation, even reach the peak of the Human World! These are acceptable.

But to aim a sword at the Evil God?

And actually kill the Evil God!

"It's not just the Ghost Talisman Doll." Niu Zhengzheng rubbed his head with a big hand, feeling a tingle in his scalp as he mentioned this, "Ghostly Eyes Ghost, Angry Sea Flame Flood Dragon..."

Niu Zhengzheng's intelligence was still shared by Qiao Yuansi during a gathering of the Beijing team of three.

It obviously needs updating.

Subsequent falls of demons like Greedy Wolf-Evil Dog, Star Official-Flash Star Demon, Moon Spirit-Nether Toad, Yema Soul Hooking Horse, Niu Zhengzheng didn't know.

"Damn!" Wang Ling cursed, with his head full of thoughts about the earth-shattering Angry Sea Flame Flood Dragon.

Is this even daring to kill?

To dare or not is about courage, the real core question is:

Is this even possible to kill??

As a Great Power in the Sea Realm, seeing the Angry Sea Flame Flood Dragon lackeys of River Realm, Wang Ling had to be extremely vigilant.

Yet you tell me, Lu Ran directly charged into the deepest part of the Demon Cave, slaying the Evil God Angry Sea Flame Flood Dragon itself?!

Niu Zhengzheng suddenly leaned forward, his large eyes like bronze bells looked at Wang Ling seriously: "Brother, I'm holding back when I say this!"

Wang Ling: "Huh?"

Niu Zhengzheng grinned: "These few Evil Gods died last month."

"Yes, Lu Ran will only get stronger and stronger." Guan Yiren agreed with her teammate, "Over the past month, the gods and demons slayed by him will only increase, not decrease."

Wang Ling's mind buzzed, slumped in the chair.

Guan Yiren's beautiful eyes gazed at Lu Ran, her expression complicated.

Some people,

are truly only suited for admiration from afar.

...

The Thousand Flower Ridge at dusk has a unique charm.

The phantom youth accompanying Lu Ran suddenly surged onto the blade.

At the same moment, Lu Ran also sensed the footsteps behind.

"Brother Ran." Wang Ling called from a distance.

"Hmm?" Lu Ran slightly turned his head, glancing behind him with the corner of his eye.

From afternoon to dusk, they had talked for quite a long time, so the uncle and nephew of the Wang family must have gained deep insights into the God Demon, Ran Sect.

"Thank you, Brother Ran, for thinking of me." Wang Ling looked at the young man's back, his eyes blazing.

Lu Ran smiled: "Planning to come with me?"

"Of course!" Wang Ling's response was firm and unhesitant.

"What about your uncle?" Lu Ran said casually.

Wang Quan is also a top-notch First-class God·Qiang Xiu disciple, plus a powerful presence of Yangyang Sea, in the past, he was the Great Power sent by Beijing to support Rain Alley.

With outstanding combat skills and unparalleled martial arts!

Additionally, given his relationship with Wang Ling, Lu Ran naturally aspired to recruit this general under his wing.

Both the Wang family and the Guan family, behind Guan Yiren, are influential families in Beijing.

Even if the gods and demons made Da Xia, and even the whole world, distorted, where there's people, there will be systems of rules operating.

Given Lu Ran's path of growth, and the heights he stands at, he obviously wouldn't care about various relationships on the plane of the Human World.

He has a grand aspiration, always targeting the Hall of All Gods.

God and demon created an aberrant world, and those who want to break the rules, are also walking a distorted path.

Lu Ran and his subordinates have long been disconnected from the realm and entire society.

Thus, having such subordinates, on some future day, can better connect Ran Sect with the Human World.

"Uncle Quan also wishes to join Ran Sect and contribute to the cause of the human clan, earnestly requesting Master Lu... Sect Leader for asylum." Wang Ling clasped his hands, reverently worshipping.

As if paying homage to a god.

Perhaps Lu Ran's strength realm can't yet stand parallel to the gods.

But merely in the Second Rank of Sea Realm, Wang Ling couldn't distinguish the differences between the first, second, third levels of Heavenly Realm from God Realm.

Nevertheless, Lu Ran's glorious achievements have already placed him on an unparalleled Divine Altar in Wang Ling's heart.

"Alright, brothers in arms, father and son soldiers." Lu Ran slowly got up, sheathing his sword, "However, Qiang Xiu-Evil Spear Emperor Stone Sculpture already has an inheritor, you two need to choose other gods and demons."

Wang Ling immediately said, "I heard from Niu Tou that Brother Ran left me the Soul Hook Demon?"

Lu Ran laughed and turned to look at the young man several meters away: "You don't feel wronged?"

"What?"

"From a First-class God disciple to a Sixth-rank God Demon, don't you feel wronged?"

"No!" Wang Ling shook his head decisively, "Brother Ran specifically left it for me, I don't feel wronged at all!"

What a joke!

This is an opportunity to become a god, who would feel wronged?

Wang Ling also keenly caught the words "God Demon," confirming his anticipation that Lu Ran intended to bestow upon him a complete God Demon Double Stone Sculpture.

The Yema-Soul Hooking Horse (Demon) is one of the few in Da Xia's God Demon Series capable of directly injuring the soul while the enemy is still alive.

Under the Divine Demon System, such damage equates to real harm.

Soul Hooking Horse has spiritual output, spirit defense, chain control, and can capture the enemy's soul posthumously.

The Yema moves swiftly, can tread fire and fly, and even use blazing Karmic Fire for ranged attacks, impacting the enemy's soul, burning the flesh, preventing wound healing.

God and Demon unification, complementing each other's weaknesses.

"With you and your brother protecting little Yuanxi, I can be a bit more at ease." Lu Ran smiled and nodded, "A couple of days ago, I just slaughtered the Yema-Soul Hooking Horse, the Divine Position is ready-made, only awaiting your Heavenly Realm ascension."

"Huh??" Wang Ling was stunned.

Lu Ran had already slaughtered this pair of God Demons?

Could such a thing not be spoken so casually?

Beside him, Wang Quan silently watched Lu Ran.

The sunset glow bathed the world, reflecting the young man dressed in snow-white clothes in a blood-red hue.

Even the exquisite "instrument of punishment" on his face seemed to emit a more eerie blood-colored radiance.

Wang Quan's heart suddenly trembled heavily!

Because the young man turned his gaze, asking in a muffled voice: "Uncle Wang, what's your plan?"

"Miss Guan said, there aren't many Stone Sculptures left under Master Lu." Wang Quan's voice was hoarse.

"Hmm."

"I wonder, is the Skyspear Divine Sculpture still there?" Wang Quan asked.

Upon hearing this, Lu Ran's expression became somewhat strange.

Fourth-rank God-Skyspear, resides alongside Flower Lantern on a Divine Mountain, which is precisely the next target for Ran Sect's attack.

"If the Sect Leader finds it difficult, I'll choose another." Wang Quan slowly said.

"Not difficult." Lu Ran shook his head, "Tomorrow, I will go and slay the Skyspear-Muddy Cloud Demon, seize the Divine Position, and keep it for Uncle Wang."

Guan Niuwang: ???

Wang Quan: "..."

"Brother Ran!" Wang Ling mustered up the courage, speaking from afar, "You don't have to do this, we..."

Wang Ling misunderstood, thinking Lu Ran especially valued the uncle and nephew duo, thus making such decisions.

To say he wasn't moved would be false.

But one word from his own uncle directly decided the life and death of a god...

This kind of importance was too heavy.

The casual tone was suffocating.

Lu Ran didn't pay attention to Wang Ling, murmuring, "Skyspear is nicknamed Little Qiang Xiu, once combined with Muddy Cloud Demon, their combat power is indeed formidable.

Please, Uncle Wang, later join Wang Ling and Niu Zhengzheng in protecting little Yuanxi well for me."

Wang Quan nodded solemnly.

"Let's go." Lu Ran summoned an Ancient Bronze Mirror.

One step was Tianya Haijiao, with this step, Lu Ran also entered the thick mist.

Someone else is advancing?

Catching the wind is a good thing.

"Come on, Wang Ling!"

"Sect... Brother Ran?" Wang Ling had tried many times to call him Sect Leader, his admiration for Lu Ran was heartfelt, yet Niu Zhengzheng had specifically reminded him not to change his address.

This was Lu Ran's specific request, not wanting previous relations to transform.

Wang Ling also heard from Niu Zhengzheng that his girlfriend Chang Ying still calls Lu Ran "Ranbao" to this day.

Also quite rebellious...

Wang Ling asked himself, even though Divine-Qiang Xiu was his classmate, who later rose to become a god, he would never dare call Qiang Xiu "Qiangbao"...

"Sending you a horse." Lu Ran placed a hand on Wang Ling's head, his body projected a giant Evil God's shadow.

Signing the Inheritance Contract, tearing up the Master-Servant Contract, Lu Ran did it smoothly.

"Uh." Wang Ling groaned in pain.

Lu Ran patted his shoulder: "From now on, the God Realm is your growth limit, calm yourself quickly in cultivation, ascend soon, and fight the God Demon battles with me."

"Yes!" Wang Ling clenched his fist.

"Come, Uncle Wang, it's your turn."

After finishing everything, Lu Ran had Niu Zhengzheng and Guan Yiren arrange accommodations for the uncle and nephew duo, then returned to Tianya Residence.

He fell onto the bed, mentally conveying: [Ruyi, Ruyi.]

[The Wang Family's uncle and nephew have joined?]

[Yes, yes, everything went smoothly.] Lu Ran paused, then said, [I'm planning to visit Lantern Mist Divine Mountain, what do you think?]

Jiang Ruyi thought a bit, understanding Lu Ran's intention, and couldn't help but shake her head with a smile.

He really is a good brother.

From the moment Little Yuanxi ascended to the Heavenly Realm, everything was beyond the little one's control.

A triple leap!

From the First Level of Heaven Realm to the Second, Third, until finally ascending to the Divine Position, becoming a god!

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Chapter 983: Playing It Safe

At the stroke of midnight, Lu Ran and the soldiers gathered had devised their battle strategy, and he ventured alone toward the Heavenly Realm Battlefield.

Following the guidance of Huangfu Zhao, Lu Ran located the Lantern Mist Divine Mountain in the eastern region.

"Oh boy~"

Lu Ran gazed at the divine mountain shrouded in black mist and couldn't help but mutter to himself.

Who would dare venture into that?

As soon as one gets tainted by the black mist, they would be perceived by the God Demon minions. Hopefully, the swirling dark clouds of the Third Heaven aren't shrouded by more mist.

In contemplation, through his Simurgh Eyes, Lu Ran saw a brave man weaving through the mist.

He bore a striking resemblance to a human clan man, with a tall and slender figure, a face chiseled like a carving, wielding a Cloud Mist Spear, battling with a Faceless Jade Venerable at the edge of the black mist.

Deity Minion·Skyspear!

Possessing a physical form with no significant changes in appearance, evidently, Sir Skyspear had executed the Evil God·Muddy Cloud Demon and devoured its Dead Soul.

Lu Ran squinted slightly, observing the Skyspear minion stepping on clouds, sprinting rapidly in the air, with long hair flowing sideways behind his head.

Such grace!

He wielded the spear against his foe, the spear tip occasionally jabbing out a sharp cloud mist spike, each strike on the Faceless Jade Venerable would fracture its body with numerous cracks.

That was the highly piercing Skyspear Divine Technique·Cloud Rift Pierce!

"Phew~"

The Skyspear minion suddenly began to spin, enveloped by a Cloud Dragon Roll, pushing against the Faceless Jade Venerable, forcing it to retreat continually.

This is the most renowned Skyspear skill·Cloud Dragon Break!

"Tsk tsk." Lu Ran praised silently, worthy of the name little Qiang Xiu indeed?

Though he couldn't Instant Teleport, with stepping on clouds and summoning Cloud Dragon Rolls to traverse back and forth, his mobility was quite remarkable.

Despite being within the mist, he could perceive everything inside the mist, making him fight as fish at home in water!

Moreover, a golden red Defense Shield encapsulated the Skyspear minion's body.

Flower Lantern Divine Skill·Bright Fire Cage!

It must be admitted, the Lantern Sect truly reigns as the kings of the Support Realm.

Under the protection of the Flower Lantern, not only does the Fourth-class deity minion Skyspear dare engage the Faceless Jade Venerable head-on, but even the Fifth-class deity minion Cloud Mace can also battle the Faceless Jade Venerable with back-and-forth exchanges.

On the ground battlefield, Lu Ran witnessed several mighty generals.

They donned seemingly lightweight yet extremely heavy Cloud Armor, wielding Double Maces, swinging them with fierce vigor.

Each time the double maces strike the enemy, the cloud cluster erupts with a formidable stance!

Occasionally, as they heavily smash the ground with double maces, a circle of cloud waves would ripple outward, attempting to overturn their foes.

Lu Ran observed for a moment, then shook his head.

Too cumbersome.

This also explains why the deity-Cloud Mace falls to the Fifth Rank; regardless of either defensive attire or the double maces in hand, they are far too heavy.

This is also unavoidable.

To have enough weight and defensive power in weapons and armor, the cloud mist must layer upon layer compress, and consolidate.

The Cloud Mace sect lacks a Skill for Power Amplification.

Therefore, it's especially difficult for the Human Clan believers to move.

"Ha!!" A sudden Battle Roar snapped Lu Ran back to attention.

He looked in the direction, seeing beneath the feet of the Cloud Mace minion, a giant cloud figurine rise up from the ground, with the Cloud Mace minion embedded in its forehead.

Like piloting a Gundam~

"Boom!!"

The giant cloud figurine had just appeared when it stomped down.

This War Trample was earth-shattering, and Lu Ran had covered his ears in advance.

Lu Ran's knowledge was proficient enough to know this humongous cloud figurine wasn't part of the Cloud Mace sect's Divine Technique.

Rather, it was the Evil Technique of their adversary, the Evil God·Miasma Cloud Demon: Giant Cloud Remains.

Evidently, God Demon has merged into one.

In this world, there's only deity·Cloud Mace.

Conversely, the Flower Lantern-Black Lantern hasn't fused, appearing as bait deliberately tossed by the Ran Sect?

Lu Ran furrowed his brows slightly.

Is it perhaps excessively arrogant?

The whole Lantern Mist Divine Mountain has merely three pairs of God Demons.

Under the aid of the Flower Lantern, the two generals Skyspear and Cloud Mace indeed possess imposing power, able to clash head-on with the Jade Venerable Clan without disadvantage.

But...

The Ran Sect's battle records are evident here.

Even Third-class gods like Star Officials and the Moon Spirit were wiped out, could the Flower Lantern along with two warriors fend off the Ran Sect's assault?

This is overly arrogant!

Lu Ran pursed his lips, ascending towards the upper cloud layers.

On the Second Heaven's divine mountain battlefield, the clashing was even fiercer indeed!

The Skyspear minion moved with spirited agility, becoming a Cloud Dragon Roll, shuttling endlessly across the battlefield;

The Cloud Mace frequently summoned giant cloud figurines, with "Gundam" War Trample, devastating the field...

Lu Ran observed attentively for a moment, then suddenly his eyes sharpened.

At the battlefield's edge, a Black Lantern burst forth from the black mist, upon it rose a silhouette of a woman.

The Flower Lantern wore a luxurious gown, adorned with intricate hairpieces, her face delicate as an ancient affluent lady, elegant and dignified.

In her hands, she held an exquisite Eight-sided Lantern, from which a dazzling beam enveloped a Faceless Jade Venerable.

"Whoosh~"

The robes of the Faceless Jade Venerable fluttered, fleeing frantically, with no intention of engaging in close combat.

Yet despite her swift response, she could not escape the clutches of the Flower Lantern minion.

The four-meter-tall Faceless Jade Venerable, under the sacred radiance, shrank continually, drifting slowly towards the lantern.

Soon, this Faceless Jade Venerable was sealed within the lantern.

With a graceful posture, the Flower Lantern held a faint smile, gently turning the Eight-sided Lantern.

The Faceless Jade Venerable inside, akin to a small figure, rushed wildly within the lantern, as the divine fire inside tormented it with continuous refinement.

The Lantern Sect's ultimate move·Divine Fire Demon Sealing Cage!

Lu Ran's expression finally turned slightly solemn; this move was exceptionally dominating.

The vast majority of living beings, once enveloped by the light, could not escape.

If it weren't for the fact that the Evil Shadow Guardian had already become a god and could transport people instantly, Lu Ran really wouldn't dare to lead the team to confront the Flower Lantern Lord.

As expected, the Divine Grade·Divine Fire Demon Refining Cage cast by the Flower Lantern's true self can absorb, imprison, and refine even gods and demons.

It's terrifyingly powerful!

To escape from it through conventional means, your strength must at least be able to break through the Flower Lantern Sect's defensive divine technique, Bright Fire Cage!

Lu Ran witnessed with his own eyes the Faceless Jade Venerable attempting to taint the Eight-sided Lantern and transform it into a white jade texture to dissolve this prison.

But the divine fire burning inside was far more intense than imagined.

The divine fire raged violently, hitting the Faceless Jade Venerable again and again, making it impossible for her to stay in one place.

Being refined seemed inevitable.

So, is this the arrogance of the Flower Lantern Lord?

Heh,

Then don't come crying later~

Speaking of which, after this battle, I must have a good chat with my sister to make sure she doesn't get mischievous.

Qiao Yuansi's true stone sculpture must eventually return to the Sculpture Garden.

The garden is full of divine and evil sculptures, depicting people of all ages and all manner of flora and fauna.

If she whimsically decides to refine one of those stone sculptures, I wouldn't be able to bear it...

Lu Ran slowly lifted his head, his gaze piercing through the fog and the gap in the sea of clouds, towards the Third Heaven.

Fortunately, there were no godly lackeys in the Third Heaven, so he immediately flickered towards it.

The world was silent.

Lu Ran strained his neck, looking up at the peak of the Divine Mountain, and found that there were truly only four vortices in the sky.

Come to think of it, the four spires reaching into the vortices were likely connected to the stone pillars under the feet of the Flower Lantern, Black Lantern, Skyspear, and Cloud Mace gods and demons.

Hmm?

As Lu Ran observed for a moment, he suddenly realized the problem.

He had already locked onto the Demon Cave where the Evil God-Black Lantern was located, but the black lantern lackeys falling from the vortex were all shrouded in wisps of mist.

The inside of the vortex likely had black mist everywhere?

Once he entered it, even if he concealed his form, the black mist would outline his silhouette.

He would be detected!

The Demon Cave and the Third Heaven are two worlds, and Lu Ran's naked eyes cannot penetrate the vortex to see the interior environment.

He couldn't be sure if the gods and demons were ambushing in the lower Demon Cave or would be in the upper Demon Cave.

To take a step back, even if Lu Ran safely entered the lower Demon Cave, facing the gate to the upper Demon Cave, would he dare to venture inside recklessly?

A Starry Sky Curtain separates him from the place where the true Evil God stands.

If Black Lantern continues to emit black mist, it would immediately sense an intruder at the first moment.

Lu Ran furrowed his brow tightly.

Should I also turn into mist and fight mist with mist?

Hmm... not feasible.

As long as I move within the mist, I'll be detected.

[Ruyi, I have a problem.]

[What is it?]

[Over at the Lantern and Mist Divine Mountain, the bait left by the gods and demons is the Black Lantern...] Lu Ran explained the situation on the Divine Mountain and shared his worries.

Jiang Ruyi pondered for a moment and suggested: [Why don't you approach from the Human World?]

Entering the Demon Cave from the Flower Lantern Ancient City in the Human World?

If he goes that way, through the Demon Cave Gate, he would enter the stone ancient city built by the Human Clan.

Being in the upper Demon Cave, Lu Ran only needs to instantly teleport all the way to the depths of the Demon Cave, where he would naturally meet the true Evil God.

It is crucial to figure out how many ambushes there are before the battle.

Lu Ran wished that the Flower Lantern Lord was arrogant and only set up an ambush with two warriors, but honestly, he felt uneasy.

Just recalling the elegant smile at the corner of the Flower Lantern lackey's mouth...

This girl... ahem, this god is undoubtedly full of wisdom.

[Alright, let's do that.] Lu Ran decided decisively, without acting rashly.

The reason he has come this far, from the Human World to the Mountain Realm, to the Heavenly Realm Battlefield, and finally to the Demon Cave's God Demon Battlefield, still able to maintain the situation where the enemy is clear while he is hidden, is because of one core belief:

Be cautious!

Hone strength, build influence.

Only then can a shining sky over the Three Realms be forged through caution!

Yes, it's not cowardice on my part. It's all for the multitude, for the everlasting endeavor of the Human Clan!

"Swoosh~"

The dark cloud vortex was near, and Lu Ran instantly teleported away without hesitation.

Arriving at a secluded, uninhabited place, he summoned a landing mirror to return to the Da Xia's Luoxian Mountain in the Human World.

"Uh." Lu Ran stepped into the Luoxian Residence, quickly dispelling the landing mirror behind him.

A deep voice suddenly imprinted on his mind: [Why have you returned?]

It was clear, even from his tone, the Immortal Sheep Lord seemed a bit displeased.

Lu Ran hurriedly explained, "Disciple intends... uh, plans to kill the Flower Lantern by entering the Demon Cave, which is difficult from the Third Heaven, so I intend to approach from the Human side."

[Hmm.] The Immortal Sheep responded lightly.

"Disciple shall depart immediately."

[The double mace in Cloud Mace's hands is a pair of Fourth Rank Divine Weapons. Make good use of your newly acquired Curved Moon Hook.]

Lu Ran paused in his actions: "Does Skyspear not have a Divine Weapon?"

[There was once, but it was borrowed a long time ago by Qiang Xiu and never returned.]

Lu Ran: "..."

Can't I report this?

Have Qiang Xiu return the Divine Weapon quickly, my servant Chou Nu doesn't even have a handy spear... wait a minute!

Lu Ran asked, "If I go to slay Skyspear, will Skyspear, being connected in heart with the Divine Weapon, inform Qiang Xiu?"

The Immortal Sheep let out a snort: [Qiang Xiu claimed it was borrowed, did you really think it was a loan?]

Lu Ran, indignant and dissatisfied, said: "Doesn't anyone manage this? It's utterly lawless!"

The Immortal Sheep: "..."

Chapter 984: A Beauty's Allure

The Divine·Lantern's stone sculpture is located in Hang City, Qiantang River Province.

Lu Ran had visited the Bamboo Sea Demon Cave before, which made the journey much easier. Under the cover of the dark night, he directly opened a Transmission Mirror and with one step, he was in the deep mountain forest outside Anji City.

With a single flash, he stood high in the night sky, gazing at the distant, towering Divine·Lantern avatar.

At the base of this avatar stone sculpture lies the Demon Cave·Bamboo Sea.

Within the Bamboo Sea, there is a secluded passage.

Inside this passage is a mysterious chef, her current spiritual realm unknown.

As the only surviving member of the Forget Spring Sect, Li Rouyin was certainly handpicked, with top-tier talent and aptitude.

She often accompanies Lord Wang Quan, so her growth rate should be swift?

The last time the two met was long ago.

On that occasion, Lu Ran went to deliver good news, informing the young lady that he had found her longed-for Qin Yanzhi.

Thick-skinned, he asked for a few pieces of dowry money, and then took on a task.

Unfortunately, there's been no news from Hao Tian since.

"Alas..." sighed Lu Ran heavily in his heart, unsure of how to face her.

Gradually, his gaze fell upon the Lantern Stone Sculpture.

Lu Ran remembered very clearly, last time when he saw Li Rouyin, the young lady let slip that every month, the Lantern Believers would go to the secluded passage to demand Dead Souls.

Whether Lord Wang Quan is a prisoner or living under someone else's roof, the fact is he has to offer tribute monthly.

Evidently, the Forget Spring Sect has been living a life of humiliation, from the divine to the believers.

The old saying goes: if you take someone's money, you must relieve them of their disaster.

Since I can't find your brother, I'll kill the extortionists and robbers tormenting you first!

"Hmm..." Lu Ran nodded secretly, turned around, and flashed away.

From Anji City to Hang City, the straight-line distance is only seventy to eighty kilometers, and with just one flash, he was above the bustling metropolis.

Overlooking the Human World, Lu Ran's eyes became somewhat distant.

He was just in such fantastical places as the Mountain Realm and Heavenly Realm, and now he's come to the Human World with buildings rising high, neon lights flashing.

Anyone would feel a bit dazed.

Under the night sky, Hang City was bright with lights.

On this evening of the lunar calendar's eleventh night, the city was peaceful, giving an illusion of peace and prosperity.

Hang City is really big, but the Lantern is not small either!

The gigantic stone sculpture, a towering 270 meters high, can be found by anyone.

Especially in the night, the ancient Lantern City is surrounded by exquisite eight-sided lanterns, like sky lanterns released by people, floating high and far in the night sky.

Lanterns surround the Divine-Lantern, dressing the dusky stone sculpture in gorgeous red attire.

Lu Ran shook his head silently.

Why is such a beautiful woman so malicious-hearted?

Stepping back, this stone sculpture before him should be an empty shell.

The real body of the Lantern should be hiding deep in the Demon Cave, and the stone sculptures, avatars of the Lantern in other regions, are also just stone shells.

Yan Shuangzi, who holds a Double Divine Position, has already comprehended many abilities.

These include creating fake shells, similar to small divine sculptures worshiped in every household, objects imbued with divine aura that can better collect people's Power of Faith.

"Swish~"

Lu Ran's figure flashed to the outskirts of the ancient city, slowly descending with the help of Smoke and Mist Silk.

Following the usual path of a trainee, he infiltrated through the Demon Cave Gate and then saw a very familiar scene.

A magnificent and majestic Stone City!

Under the pitch-black night, paths of torches extend from inside the city outward, like winding dragons of fire, stretching to the limits of vision.

The Black Lantern Clan's Demon Cave!

Also known as Black Grave Mound.

Upon arriving here, Lu Ran inevitably thought of Si Xianxian.

He and Xian'er Sister got acquainted inside a Black Grave Mound, and thus began a fateful encounter.

A wicked maid!

Always thinking about how to climb into the Lady's bed...

Lu Ran secretly mocked, surveying the city in all directions, and quietly flashed away.

This was his first time coming from the Human World side, moving through Instant Teleportation, comparing the whole way, and ultimately choosing the direction with the most Evil Demon henchmen and the most densely packed Human Clan fortifications.

Where there's a will, there's a way.

At nightfall, he hesitated under the whirl of clouds in the Third Heaven.

In the pre-dawn hours, he borrowed a path through the Human World, took a big detour, and finally arrived at the location of the Evil God·Black Lantern.

Lu Ran hung in the night sky, looking at the area shrouded in black fog, and couldn't help but grin.

Lucky I didn't act impulsively!

The Evil God·Black Lantern sat atop a stone pillar, and the area within three kilometers was already filled with black fog.

If Lu Ran had crawled in from below the Starry Sky Curtain of the stone pillar, he would surely have been discovered!

Also, because of the black fog shrouding everything, the two Divine Weapons, Skyspear and Cloud Mace, brazenly stood beside the stone pillar.

One on the left, one on the right, like two guardian deities!

Always guarding the Demon Cave Gate.

Indeed, these two great generals, Skyspear and Cloud Mace, can also release clouds and fog and perceive the creatures within.

Lu Ran saw the back of the Divine·Lantern, she sat in the border region of the black fog, kneeling three thousand meters north from the stone pillar, her long skirt spread like waves.

With closed eyes, she seemed to be meditating, a graceful and tranquil sight.

Suddenly, Lu Ran squinted his Simurgh Eyes, which cut through the dense black fog, spotting a stone sculpture standing three kilometers to the southeast of the stone pillar.

Bi He?

Lu Ran's heart twitched.

Wasn't she over by the Bamboo Forest Divine Mountain... oh, right!

The Evil God·Tangled Silk Shadow has already been slain by the Ran Sect.

Now Bi He has become alone, with no living vessel for the summoned divine henchmen.

So, was she invited by the Divine Lantern to ambush the enemy together?

This is troublesome.

Lu Ran's expression wasn't looking good.

The Tangled Silk Shadow has the Silk Thread and Tangled Silk; Bi He similarly has the Lotus Silk Connection and Lotus Silk Chaos!

Their control abilities are top-tier in the evil demonic ranks.

Just now Lu Ran was thinking, it's a good thing he didn't act recklessly; if he had directly emerged from the lower Demon Cave, he would have exposed his tracks.

Looking at it now, how could it be as simple as just exposing his tracks?

With Lu Ran's Heavenly Realm at the Second Level, if any Divine Grade Lotus Silk touches him, even blinking to escape would be difficult.

Good, good, good,

What a Divine Lantern!

Arrogance is indeed a smokescreen; secretly they have already found helpers.

Lu Ran slowly circled and suddenly came to a stop.

Southwest three kilometers from the stone pillar, he unexpectedly saw another impressive Divine Sculpture.

This was a male Divine Sculpture, with disheveled hair, slightly bowing its head, resembling a silent fierce beast, imposing in its presence.

It was draped in a wide robe, and held a chain in its hand.

Although the Divine Sculpture was in a gray hue, in Lu Ran's mind, he had already imagined its robe and chain to be deep red.

Third-class God·Prisoner Demon!

This damn thing came too?

Lu Ran's expression darkened; the Divine Lantern sure has good connections?

In the Bamboo Forest Divine Mountain, there are only two pairs of Third-class God Demons: Bi He-Tangled Silk Shadow, Prisoner Demon-Prison Sky Demon.

The Divine Lantern has invited the main forces of Bamboo Forest Divine Mountain!

The question is, is Prisoner Demon an individual god, or has he already devoured Prison Sky Demon's Divine Soul, becoming a God and Demon Unification entity?

Moreover, what about Bamboo Forest Divine Mountain?

Have Mud Venerate-Mud Swamp Doll, Nine Bamboo-Bamboo Wood Demon gone somewhere?

Lu Ran quickly searched, looking for any possible swamp traces on the solid ground.

The weaker Nine Bamboo, foolish Bamboo Wood Demon, pose no concern.

But Mud Venerate and Mud Swamp Doll, at least as Fourth-class God Demons, deserve some attention.

Lu Ran flew on, his brows furrowed: [Immortal Sheep, may I interrupt you for a moment?]

[Mm.]

[The chain in Prisoner Demon's hand seems to be a Fourth Rank Magic Artifact, do you know its exact effect?]

[Prisoner Demon?]

[Yes, disciple saw the ambushed Bi He, Prisoner Demon...] Lu Ran quickly described the situation.

[Heh, this is a complete heaven and earth trap set for you.] Immortal Sheep's tone surprisingly sounded slightly gloating.

Lu Ran: ?

No!

Which side are you on?

But Sheep General isn't wrong, look at this positioning!

The Black Lantern as bait, perched atop the stone pillar.

The sides of the Demon Cave Gate, guarded firmly by Skyspear and Cloud Mace, ready for a massacre.

At the edge of the black mist, the Divine Lantern, Bi He, and Prisoner Demon divided into three directions, completely surrounding the Demon Cave Gate.

Divine Lantern is the absolute monarch of the Support Realm.

Bi He and Prisoner Demon possess both hard and soft control, with top-tier control abilities.

Anyone can see Divine Lantern's determination; she truly wants to bury Lu Ran in this Black Grave Mound!

[That's a Fourth Rank Magic Artifact, the Prisoner Demon Chain, born to bind gods and demons, its exact effects can be compared to Tangled Silk Shadow's Evil Technique Silk Thread, Tangled Silk.]

Lu Ran: !!!

This damn...

A divine being like Bi He is already enough to make my heart tremble; just a touch of the Lotus Silk could lead to death by control.

And now there's a magic artifact for binding gods and demons?

Prisoner Demon is also a master of control, adding such an elite artifact surely makes him even stronger!

Lu Ran's expression turned grim, carefully maneuvering around a hundred meters from Prisoner Demon, ensuring he had no other Divine Weapons or Magic Artifacts.

He flew behind Bi He, scanning up and down uncertainly: [Immortal Sheep, Bi He seems to have vibrations of a Divine Weapon or Magic Artifact, but I can't find it.]

Immortal Sheep snorted coldly:

[Can't find it, can't your dog nose smell it?]

After getting scolded, Lu Ran's expression turned slightly awkward, weakly transmitting: [Disciple truly didn't smell it.]

[That's a sachet, its fragrance can calm all beings, ensuring peace of mind.] Immortal Sheep sounded a bit gloating again, [All your spiritual output techniques will be ineffective in this battle.]

Lu Ran looked quite troubled.

No wonder it's a human-shaped Stone Sculpture, it sure delivers, damn it.

Lowering his voice even more, he muttered deeply: [Scared, better run quickly.]

Lu Ran pursed his lips, ignoring Immortal Sheep, and circled half around the black mist, probing behind the Divine Lantern.

[Why does the Divine Lantern not have any Divine Weapons or Magic Artifacts, could it be her own ability is too strong to care for them?]

Immortal Sheep didn't reply, but said: [Aren't you leaving? What, are you unwilling?]

Lu Ran slowly flew back, glancing at the well-prepared gods and demons, his tone gradually turning sinister: [Since Divine Lantern painstakingly set up a heaven and earth trap, if disciple doesn't charge in...]

Immortal Sheep's tone was playful: [What?]

Lu Ran's eyes turned cold, licking his lips: [Then disciple would be too unappreciative of a beauty's kindness.]

Immortal Sheep: ?

You cheeky boy!

Knew you could act, and you're doing it right in front of me today?

...

Chapter 985: Stroke of Luck

In the chaotic graveyard hundreds of kilometers away from the Divine Mountain Stone Pillar.

Lu Ran used the Mountain Lord Divine Technique, hiding his physical body underground, while his consciousness had long entered the Sculpture Garden.

"This is the situation. Does anyone have any thoughts?" Lu Ran stood on Jiang Ruyi's fingertip, looking at the soldiers in front of him.

Yu Changsheng spoke first: "Sect Leader! The number of gods and demons this time is vast, and it's somewhat challenging to resolve them all at once. I believe we should adjust our battle strategy."

"Oh?" Lu Ran slightly raised his brow, "Please elaborate, sir."

Yu Changsheng contemplated: "We can choose a few gods to temporarily distract and lure them away from the battlefield. Then select a few others for focused killing."

"Hmm, that works." Lu Ran nodded lightly.

Jiang Ruyi spoke: "The Flower Lantern must be dealt with first, its support abilities are too strong. As long as it's on the battlefield, the entire god and demon team can maintain a top-tier defense system."

"Yes, yes, yes!" Lu Ran nodded repeatedly, "At the start of the battle, let's have the Evil Shadow Guardian instantly teleport the Flower Lantern away."

"Understood." Yan Shuangzi responded solemnly.

Lu Ran continued: "The Lantern Sect's ultimate move is quite powerful, even if trapped within the encirclement, our soldiers might suffer casualties..."

Yu Changsheng suggested: "We can have the Evil Shadow Guardian participate throughout the battle. Even if soldiers are engulfed by the light of the Flower Lantern, the Evil Shadow can immediately evacuate them."

Lu Ran nodded secretly; this was indeed a good strategy.

Jiang Ruyi proposed her decision: "Have the Mad Immortal Guardian lay an ambush alone, and the Evil Shadow can take care of her throughout, ensuring nothing goes wrong."

"No problem!" Si Xianxian immediately stepped forward, full of excitement, "Old lady... cough, I promise to blow the Flower Lantern to pieces, blast out the Divine Soul, and present it to little Yuanxi as a divine gift."

"Great!" Lu Ran was also stirred by Xian'er sister's crude words.

Seizing the moment, Yu Changsheng added: "The two guardians can quickly kill and rush back to the main battlefield for support."

"Absolutely!" Xian'er sister's accent was distinctive.

"Understood." The Evil Shadow responded solemnly.

"What about Bi He? She's also quite a tricky god to deal with." Lu Ran wasted no time, continuing to push the meeting forward.

Everyone knew the threat of that fine Lotus Silk.

Yu Changsheng suggested: "Bi He is well-balanced in offense and defense, not affected by spiritual output. I think we could temporarily regard her as a distraction target and have our soldiers lure her away from the battleground."

As soon as the strategist finished speaking, Wu Xiao stepped forward.

Immediately, everyone looked over, seeing the Martial Emperor stop in front of the Sect Leader and the Lady, half-kneeling in salute.

Although he didn't speak, he was undoubtedly requesting to join the battle!

The Wusheng Sect indeed fears not the Lotus Silk. In fact, most skills in the world can't even touch the Great Martial Artist's hem.

Just as Wu Xiao volunteered, four more stepped out, voluntarily requesting to join.

Huangfu Zhao, Yan Chou, Yin Yan, Tu Feng!

The former can move at high speed, while the latter three can use Instantaneous Movement. Yin Yan and Tu Feng can also turn invisible, as they serve the True God Evil Shadow.

These four, each with full survival capability, fear not the fine Lotus Silk.

Clearly, the Ran Sect's soldiers are quickly adapting to the situation.

In previous battles against gods and demons, it was always the high-level of the Ran Sect who discussed battle plans and issued orders to people.

However, this time is special. The battlefield situation changed, and Lu Ran directly entered the garden to discuss with everyone.

After pondering for a moment, Lu Ran said: "Martial Emperor, Heavenly General Yin, and Heavenly General Tu, you three go to distract Bi He, taking her as far from the battle as possible."

Jiang Ruyi added a note: "Avoid greed and rashness. Focus on harassment while waiting for the main force to come to support."

The trio agreed immediately.

Lu Ran fully entered the state, directly saying: "The Skyspear is also very agile and hard to kill... Chou Nu."

"Young Master!"

Lu Ran ordered: "You, as a fake Qiang Xiu, go distract little Qiang Xiu, and blast him aside with the Sea-Piercing Flame. Don't let him cause trouble."

"Yes!" Yan Chou responded loudly.

Lu Ran nodded with satisfaction: "The Cloud Mace has strong output and is extremely threatening but also quite clumsy, making it a key target for killing. Everyone..."

As Lu Ran spoke, the Leng family siblings stepped forward.

Leng Tianxing respectfully saluted: "Young Master, the Cloud Mist Armor on the Cloud Mace has considerable defensive power. Leave it to me to pierce the armor and slay the enemy."

Leng Tianyue: "Young Master, my sibling and I will quickly slay this god and return to aid swiftly."

Lu Ran nodded: "The Immortal Sheep Lord specifically reminded me, the Double Mace in the Cloud Mace's hand is a pair of Fourth Rank Divine Weapons. You must pay special attention and make good use of the Magic Artifact, Curved Moon Hook."

"Understood!"

Back then, Leng Tianyue gifted the Third-Rank Magic Artifact, Smoke and Mist Silk to Lu Ran.

After the last battle, Lu Ran gifted the captured Fourth-Rank Magic Artifact, Curved Moon Hook to Leng Tianyue.

Leng Tianyue was surprised and delighted, feeling the artifact was too precious and hesitant to accept it.

Though there's only a rank difference between the third and fourth ranks, the difference is like night and day!

The Leng family has already received too much favor from Lu Ran. After inheriting the Stone Sculpture and transforming into a god, Leng Tianyue truly felt it hard to accept anything more.

Yet Lu Ran was persistent!

The Moon Spirit Sect skill, Crescent Moon Hooks the Sky, looks almost identical to the Curved Moon Hook. Naturally, this artifact is highly deceptive in Leng Tianyue's hands.

Lu Ran continued: "Prisoner Demon's offense and defense shouldn't be underestimated. He wields a Fourth-Rank Magic Artifact, Prisoner Demon Lock, specifically for binding gods and demons!

Before the Leng siblings finish their battle, the soldiers distracting the Prisoner Demon must be careful."

From behind, a clear and cold voice came: "The Prisoner Demon lacks Spirit Defense Techniques and can be directly slain."

"Hmm?"

Jiang Ruyi said lightly: "Have Heavenly General Huangfu lead your Evil God followers to control the Prisoner Demon. I, Xuan Shuang, and Nightmare will launch a strong attack."

After contemplating for a long time, Lu Ran nodded: "Alright... eh, what's still missing?"

The key attacks: Flower Lantern, Prisoner Demon, Cloud Mace.

Harassment distractions: Bi He, Skyspear.

That's five in total; why do I remember there being six gods and demons?

Yu Changsheng chuckled: "Sect Leader, you forgot the bait that the gods and demons threw out."

Oh, right!

Lu Ran patted his forehead: "And there's the Black Lantern, just leave it to me... Whoa~"

Lady Xian Mo suddenly flicked her fingertip lightly, causing Lu Ran to bob up and down.

Jiang Ruyi commanded: "Elder Lu, you take the Divine General and White General to support the Sect Leader, make it quick, and come back for aid as soon as possible!

Remember to use the Purification Skill well, the Black Lantern Clan's control isn't bad."

"Yes."

Lu Ran: "..."

Underestimating people, huh?

Just an ordinary lantern, no intelligence to speak of, this seat can't handle it?

...

Minutes later, in the eerie Black Grave Mound.

A man and a sculpture, hidden and silent, crept three kilometers north of the Divine Mountain stone pillar.

[Are you ready, Evil Shadow?] Lu Ran transmitted his question.

[Mm.] Evil Shadow half-kneeled on the ground, leaning forward, reaching a long arm, the gigantic stone hand moving ever closer to Flower Lantern.

That's called being bold with skill!

A little further forward, Yan Shuangzi's finger would touch Flower Lantern's back!

Poor Flower Lantern, still guarding the web she wove, dreaming of burying her enemies in the Black Grave Mound.

Little did she know, the black hand had already come...

[Take action!] Lu Ran ordered in his mind.

"Snap," a crisp sound!

Evil Shadow grabbed Flower Lantern's nape, like picking up a kitten or puppy, whisking Lord God away.

Flower Lantern's body trembled!

Almost blinded by the sudden flash.

Si Xianxian, who had been waiting long, ignited in raging flames the moment she heard the Sect Leader's command, illuminating the sky.

Sure enough, Evil Shadow was here!

No more words needed!

Just do it!

Si Xianxian thrust her hand forward, the fierce Sea-piercing Flame blasted straight at Flower Lantern's face.

"Stop!" Flower Lantern, shocked and angry, instantly conjured an eight-sided lantern, dazzling gold-red light enveloped her.

"Crunch!"

With just one hit, the gold-red defense shield shattered.

The Mad Immortal Guardian's Output Skill is no ordinary Divine Grade!

The fire burning on her is of level-breaking slaughter.

Used to blast Divine Sculpture or Evil Sculpture's true bodies may take time, but against Divine Grade Defense Techniques?

Breaks at a touch!

"You dog! I just won't~ won't won't won't!" Si Xianxian cursed, thrusting a fire column forward with her right, swinging a hammer with her left, wildly throwing the Hammer Shadows.

Yan Shuangzi's eyes sharp, her hands like sharp wolf claws, viciously pinched Flower Lantern's neck, as if to crush it, her left hand reaching for Flower Lantern's back, an attempt at Black Tiger's Heart Grab.

"Crunch!"

Extremely sharp claw joints tore out cracks on Flower Lantern's back.

Flower Lantern was besieged from all sides!

Her body had become battered, temporarily unable to care for the mischief behind.

"Hoo!!"

Suddenly, countless lanterns scattered forward.

Each eight-sided lantern shot out gold-red beams in all directions, linking with each other.

Instantly, hundreds, thousands of lanterns wove a defense net, attempting to resist the fire column's impact.

Flower Lantern Divine Skill·Fire Cage Grand Array!

"Crunch!!"

The Sea-piercing Flame swept through like a hot knife through butter, forcibly smashing Flower Lantern's prized defense net.

"Ahh!!" Flower Lantern screamed, completely losing her usual grace.

She struggled mightily, raising a hand abruptly.

In an instant, a gigantic eight-sided lantern appeared, the dazzling glow shrouding Si Xianxian.

"Hmm?" Si Xianxian looked up, casually throwing several Hammer Shadows.

Oddly, as the burning Hammer Shadows entered the light beam range, they rapidly shrank.

"Oh dear!" Si Xianxian hurriedly dodged, even bringing out her Immortal Drive.

The Mad Immortal moved at high speed, yet the glow illuminated faster, already covering her body.

Along with an incredible suction, Si Xianxian kept shrinking, unable to escape.

"Evil Shadow? Evil... ugh." Si Xianxian's voice was cut off, Evil Shadow Guardian grabbed her nape, instant teleporting behind Flower Lantern.

At this moment, both deities were stunned.

Flower Lantern's beautiful eyes widened in realization of the terror behind!

The Mad Immortal had just recovered from the controlled state, back to original size, frightened.

"Mad Immortal?" Yan Shuangzi slightly frowned, very displeased.

"Oh oh!" Si Xianxian quickly reacted, ramming into Flower Lantern's back.

"Boom!!"

Flames exploded, shockwaves spread.

"Ahh!!" Si Xianxian hollered angrily, driving her furiously burning Immortal Drive, crushing Flower Lantern into the ground.

You dog!

Dare turn me into a toy car?

Today I'll show you what's called a lucky hit!

...

...

Chapter 986: The Shattered Divine Face

Yan Shuangzi stared intently at the trembling earth, suddenly seeing a burning stone sculpture break through the soil and rise into the sky.

"Done!"

The Mad Immortal, full of spirit, hoisted the burning war hammer onto his shoulder.

His long hair flowed gracefully, like a river of flames streaming across the night sky.

Yan Shuangzi closed her eyes, carefully perceiving something, suddenly reaching a hand down, and calling out two uneven rows of canine teeth from deep underground.

Finishing blow?

Si Xianxian pursed her lips.

Don't trust me, huh?

Don't mention a mere Flower Lantern, even if a First-class Divine Monk came, they'd be shattered by this lady!

"Let's go." Yan Shuangzi's figure flickered, and she grasped Si Xianxian's shoulder with one hand.

The two naturally intended to return to the Divine Mountain Stone Pillar region to join the main battlefield, but to their amazement, it seemed they had stepped into a Different World.

Demon Cave · Black Grave Mound was pitch black, supposedly unable to see one's hand before them.

Yet they arrived at a daytime filled with continuous drizzling rain!

Moreover, the eerie graveyard terrain was shrouded in illusory rivers.

Light rain pitter-pattered, falling onto the vast, misty river surface.

Faint clouds and mist lingered, distant mountains rolling away in succession.

Chenghua Divine Technique · Misty Rain in the Human World!

This was an extremely special Purification Skill, whose effect targets were not people, but the geographical environment.

In this beautiful scroll of Jiangnan's misty rain, the black mists unleashed by Black Lantern, Skyspear, Cloud Mace, and other God Demons were all purified.

And in this environment, the Ran Sect soldiers gained vision and could clearly see the enemy.

"Wow!" Si Xianxian exclaimed in awe.

She lifted her head to look upwards, seeing a graceful lady holding an umbrella, overlooking the chaotic battle below.

Such a scene had a strong visual impact.

The gentle and serene lady, in stark contrast to the life-and-death battle below between humans and gods, formed two polar extremes.

Hua Qingying's existence also fulfilled Si Xianxian's fiery Northeastern girl's every beautiful fantasy about Jiangnan women.

"Be careful!" Si Xianxian suddenly activated her divine carriage, heading straight for Hua Qingying. But that was not enough, she raised a hand and fired a Sea-piercing Flame.

In the sky, a Cloud Dragon Roll swiftly traveled, heading straight for Hua Qingying.

Lord God · Skyspear?

Interfering with my appreciation of the lady, purely seeking death!

Hua Qingying naturally sensed the enemy's attack, but before she could wield her umbrella in defense, a tall silhouette appeared in front of her.

Yan Chou reached down and shot a Sea-piercing Flame at the incoming Cloud Dragon Roll.

"Fwoosh!!"

The Cloud Dragon Roll indeed seemed like a great dragon, swirling its tail, redirecting its path.

The two Sea-piercing Flames crisscrossed, with Skyspear barely escaping due to its unparalleled agility.

Though Skyspear charged quickly, it was no match for Instant Teleportation!

In the end, he was just "little Qiang Xiu."

Yan Chou was a pseudo-Qiang Xiu!

Once again, Yan Chou's figure flickered, coming to the side of the oblique Cloud Dragon Roll, firing another Sea-piercing Flame.

Above Yan Chou, a grand mountain peak made of cloud mist suddenly gathered rapidly.

This was not a skill from any sect, but a Divine Weapon Domain!

Far below lay the battlefield of Lord God · Cloud Mace and the Leng family siblings.

At this moment, Cloud Mace wielded two heavy stone maces, crossing them together, forming an "X" shape.

His attack target was not Yan Chou, but the coverage of the Divine Weapon Domain's output was so vast that once the mountain descended, it would crush everything.

With a crisp "ding,"

A curved moon hooked onto the intersection of the stone maces.

Not far away, Leng Tianyue was draped in moonlight gauze, holding tight to the Moonlight Chain.

"Hmph," Lord God Cloud Mace coldly snorted, twisted the moon hook with his maces, and pulled fiercely, as if intending to drag Leng Tianyue over.

Both divine beings wielded Double Divine Positions, with the strongest physical and attribute levels.

Yet between gods, attributes still have gaps!

Cloud Mace as such a general, had clearly more strength.

Leng Tianyue suddenly stumbled forward and quickly took flight, pulling the Moonlight Chain with both hands.

At the same time, the pair of stone maces in Cloud Mace's hands were getting covered in layers of ice frost.

This ice frost not only coated the surface of the Divine Weapon but also penetrated inside, freezing the weapon spirit.

In the distant sky above, the gathering speed of the cloud mountain peak plummeted, proving the effect!

Yet none saw this scene, for Flower Heavenly General had already raised a Heavenly Net Umbrella, attempting to protect all life on the battlefield.

"Come!" Cloud Mace, undeterred, exerted his might.

Just at this moment, a bright star from behind swiftly flew, touching the Cloud Mist Armor and melding within.

Cloud Mace's expression shifted!

Behind, Leng Tianxing shrouded in stars, his stone hands waving continuously.

Star Official Sect's stars descended from heaven, but those of the Flash Star Demon clan, were shot forth from their hands!

With a "crash!!" the hefty Cloud Mist Armor shattered.

God Cloud Mace stumbled forward, each stomping footstep echoing with an amazing thud.

The following stream of stars merged into his stone body.

"Ah!" Leng Tianyue shouted, tugging the Curved Moon Hook strongly backward.

"Bang! Bang!"

Cloud Mace was pulled forward, shocked and angry, his back blasted into fragments by the stars.

His stone maces slipped from his grip, one hooked by the Curved Moon Hook, the other spinning rapidly and hurdling toward the distant Divine Mountain Stone Pillar.

There, Divine General was reaching out, releasing ten thin red lines from her fingertips to lift Evil God · Black Lantern in the air.

"Hmm?" He Yingcai glanced over, casually dragging Black Lantern, confronting the flying Fourth Rank Divine Weapon.

"Boom!!"

The thundering rumble shocked all.

The stone mace crashed heavily against Black Lantern, flying again.

Mid-route, it was accurately hooked by a gleaming white crescent moon, pulling it away from the central battle group.

[Hold still for me!] a command voice echoed in He Yingcai's mind.

She dared not delay, her fingers stiffened, suspending Black Lantern motionless in mid-air alongside her.

A small human swiftly appeared, fiercely piercing a sharp Eight Desolate Blade into the square lantern frame.

"Break for me... Hmm?" Lu Ran was just launching the Divine Weapon Domain with the Eight Desolate Blade when he suddenly sensed something amiss.

His heart sank, and he quickly teleported away.

In the next instant, a burning hammer shadow slammed into the Black Lantern.

The Mad Immortal had just killed the Flower Lantern and was bursting with aggressive momentum! Now, seeing the Black Lantern suspended in midair, ripe for the taking, she fiercely hurled the hammer shadow.

"Boom!!"

The Fierce Heavenly Sect's Divine Technique: Sky-breaking Explosion, was ferociously wild.

Hammer shadows linked together, one after another, smashing the Black Lantern into fragments until it exploded completely!

"Hum~" The Eight Desolates Annihilation Blade vibrated in dissatisfaction.

Stealing the kill?

"Humans! You are the human clan!"

Before Lu Ran could appease the Eight Desolate Blade, a stern voice filled the arena.

He turned his head and saw in the distant southwest, a tumultuous wave of red!

The stone robe on the Prisoner Demon's body had somehow turned into a large red robe, surging like ocean waves.

A deep red energy wave surged at his feet, like a sea of blood.

Countless deep red chains interwoven and rapidly shuttled through.

The sinister graveyard transformed into a Purgatory.

But such a terrifying scene could not deter the soldiers of the Ran Sect.

Huangfu Zhao, alongside the Evil God: Ghostly Eyes Ghost, raced outside the chain's range, frequently changing positions while maintaining a direct line towards the Prisoner Demon.

This duo left the Prisoner Demon devoid of any divine demeanor, with his eyes always darting around.

Frustrating beyond belief!

The Xuan Shuang Guard flew high in the sky with the Lady, using their absolute speed dominance to dodge enemy attacks while bombing the Bloody Purgatory.

In the night sky, the Nightmare Guardian swiftly maneuvered.

She too burned with the flames of exceeding slaughter, casting wind blades across the sky, piercing the large red robe spread all over.

"Humans, do you know what you're doing?" The Prisoner Demon fiercely flung his red robe, shouting angrily.

"Talkative." Deng Yuxiang reached down, and a gale rose.

A terrifying tornado churned the thick blood sea below, transforming into a formidable blood tornado!

The Prisoner Demon was enshrouded by a storm and now could see nothing.

"If I die, how many of you will survive?" The Prisoner Demon retreated with all his might, escaping the storm, "Naive!!"

Jiang Ruyi, expressionless, concentrated on controlling several talismans, aiming to break through the web of interwoven chains, again heard the Prisoner Demon's extremely angry voice:

"Ungrateful, supremely stupid!"

"All Gods protect you, giving you Divine Technique, so you bugs can survive! You! You..."

"Without my protection of the human world, the Jade Venerable would crush your homeland! Would grind you lowly ants to dust!"

On the stone pillar of the Divine Mountain, Lu Ran darkened his face, twirling his blade.

What a Prisoner Demon!

Really having the gall?

If it weren't for the cries of the human clan, with blood flowing like rivers, you gods and demons would've been crushed by the Faceless Jade Venerable long ago, right?

Still claiming to protect us, giving us Divine Technique?

What is Divine Technique used for?

To resist the invasion of evil demons!

Tell me, who created the Evil Demon Clan?

Lu Ran's Simurgh Eyes locked onto the Prisoner Demon's brow through the blood sea, storm, and chain gaps, etc.

The Prisoner Demon shouted again: "Stop immediately! Or I'll execute all Prisoner Demon believers within the Three Realms right now!"

Sect Members of Ran Sect: !!!

Lu Ran's eyes turned icy cold, the blade tip shone brilliantly, his figure flashed!

The tiny human ant crossed dozens of kilometers, passed through the all-encompassing red robe, traversed the surging blood sea, skimmed over numerous blood chains...

Striking directly at the divine brow!

"Ding!!"

The Eight Desolate Blade's third Divine Weapon Domain: One Blade Opens Heaven!

The tiny blade forcefully embedded into the divine sculpture's brow, spiderweb-like patterns swiftly spread over the Prisoner Demon's forehead.

The Prisoner Demon's eyes widened suddenly!

Outside the Bloody Purgatory, Huangfu Zhao raced with the Evil God's servant from the Young Master's family, holding the shriveled head of the Ghostly Eyes Ghost, directly facing the Prisoner Demon.

The Prisoner Demon's body trembled intensely, instinctively tightening his shut eyes.

And at that moment, an energy ring spread from the Prisoner Demon's head.

The Eight Desolate Blade's second Divine Weapon Domain: Three Calamities Annihilation!

"Hu!"

The Prisoner Demon froze, his mind limned with a buzz.

"Hu!!"

Another energy ring scattered, wreaking havoc within the divine sculpture head, with shards erratically splattering, annihilating.

"Hu!!"

The third and final energy ring, reaching an astonishing thickness of thirty meters.

The majestic face of Lord God shattered explosively!

As Lu Ran's blade was thrust forward horizontally, the energy ring dispersed vertically to the ground, spreading longitudinally.

The Prisoner Demon's head, split in half!

The back of the head still existed but was severely wrecked, with the face and the front half of the head crushed together.

Endless rubble consumed by the rapidly diffusing energy ring.

Completely obliterated, turned to powder.

Lu Ran continued to attack!

The Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd at his waist frantically injected energy for its master.

He seemed like a mad dog!

Mist sprayed from his feet, thrusting obliquely downward, the Eight Desolate Blade firmly lodged between the divine sculpture's neck.

Lu Ran's eyes glowed brightly, his short hair and robes flowed in the wind, squeezing out a word through gritted teeth:

"Shatter!!"

The Eight Desolate Blade's first Divine Weapon Domain: Eight Directions Annihilation!

Do you want to execute all believers?

I'll first execute you, this deity!

...

Chapter 987: A Glimmer of Spiritual Light

In the southeastern direction of the Divine Mountain's stone pillars, countless gigantic lotus flowers bloom, filling this eerie graveyard.

Looking around, lotus petals fall like rain, lotus leaves flutter across the sky.

There is an overwhelming force, like the power to slaughter all things and purge the universe!

In the flower clusters, an elegant and beautiful statue of a goddess is caught in a fierce battle.

Lord God Bi He is clad in a lotus leaf coat; her nimble fingers sometimes twist, sometimes stretch, manipulating delicate lotus silk to capture her enemies.

Alas, these unfamiliar stone sculptures either possess invisibility and instant teleportation or can sway with the wind, seeming to exist specifically to restrain her.

Bi He can no longer maintain her calm demeanor, her expression growing more unpleasant:

"Are you... of the Human Clan?"

Just as Bi He voices her question, angry shoutings from Prisoner Demon reach from afar.

Those furious curses seem to confirm Bi He's suspicion.

Yet neither Wu Xiao, Tu Feng, nor Yin Yan respond verbally; in such a fierce life-and-death battle, there isn't even the slightest battle roar.

Three taciturn gourds.

"Hoo!!"

Seeing a thick pillar of fire shoot toward her, Bi He hastily moves sideways to dodge.

Martial Emperor simultaneously shifts his arm, the Sea-piercing Flame sweeping across the sea of flowers, burning countless petals and leaves, continuing to chase Bi He.

Bi He decisively abandons her attack, reaching forward, summoning layers of lotus leaves to stack in front of her.

"Bang!"

Bi He braces against a pile of lotus leaves, being driven backward step by step.

Her face stiffens, realizing many things.

These unfamiliar stone sculptures have not truly ascended to godhood, clearly all are of the Heavenly Realm, yet they possess skills to kill beyond their rank, capable of shattering her Divine Lotus Leaf.

At this moment, in the distant pitch-black night, a dazzling energy ring spreads.

More than one!

Three consecutive energy rings brighten the heavens and earth completely, blasting Prisoner Demon into disfigurement.

Bi He's face changes abruptly!

The battlefield is extremely chaotic and far apart, so she hasn't paid much attention.

But these three energy rings lighting up the night sky, highlight Prisoner Demon's pitiful state, giving Bi He a glimpse.

"Do you all wish to become gods?" Bi He suddenly speaks.

The three silent gourds still remain speechless.

"I can help you!" Bi He's voice suddenly rises.

"Humph." Finally, one taciturn gourd named Tu Feng grunts.

Lord God,

such words are inconsistent with your persona.

"I have always protected the Human Clan!" Bi He forcefully waves her hand, tearing apart the chains suddenly entwining her wrists, "Since you all have come this far, why must we fight to the death?

Why not join forces with me to resist foreign enemies and together protect all beings of the Three Realms?"

Suddenly, a terrifying energy assaults her from behind.

Bi He instinctively turns, flicking her lotus silk thread.

Behind her is deep crimson.

The Divine General has been led to the field by the Evil Shadow Guardian, draped in a heavy long red gown, releasing countless dense red threads.

Evil Technique·Silk Tethering!

Mere ten lotus silk threads are all swept away by the dense red lines acting autonomously against an enemy.

A woman's playful voice follows: "If it weren't for my long-standing respect for the Lord, perhaps I might have truly believed you."

Bi He is both astonished and furious!

At such close range, how could she escape the entanglement of Silk Tethering?

Even though she reacted instantaneously, striving to retreat diagonally backward, she is still wrapped around the ankles by red lines.

"Were you once my believer?" Bi He doesn't bother much and hurriedly unfolds several lotus leaves in front of her.

He Yingcai remains immovable... indeed, the heavy red gown she wears is too cumbersome to run or jump agilely.

Heavy, naturally has its advantages!

Meaning in the gown, the red lines overlap thickly, inexhaustible!

The lotus petals and leaves drifting in the heavens, resembling flying knives, swiftly spin and traverse.

He Yingcai relies on a Silk Tethering Robe, standing stably amid the flower clusters, each red line extending from the red gown can autonomously strike at the surrounding flying lotus flowers and leaves.

"Back then, it was Lord Bi He who personally cast Cai'er into Holy Spirit Mountain." He Yingcai reaches forward with both hands, releasing ten silk threads.

At this moment, the Divine General instead resembles Lord God Bi He more.

Though she wears a voluptuous red gown, it is flashy but not vulgar, charming but not seductive, completely inheriting Bi He's style of elegance and transcendence.

"You!" Bi He suddenly cries out in surprise.

It is not that she remembers who He Yingcai is.

After all, Bi He's sect has disciples as numerous as cattle, and only the Human Clan believers who have ascended to the Heavenly Realm are worthy of a second glance from the Lord God.

The reason for Bi He's astonishment is the awareness of the issue's severity!

She perceives the silk threads entwining her ankles to be exceedingly formidable.

The Human Clan disciple before her, claiming to hail from Bi He's sect, is different from those previous Heavenly Realm stone sculptures.

This is a true god!

Judging by appearances, it seems she has usurped the Divine Position of Tangled Silk Shadow, newly ascended as an Evil God!

How could this be possible?

The Human Clan, even if capable of slaying gods, how could they devour Divine Souls?

And how could they possess everything of Tangled Silk Shadow, replacing and rising as the new god?

In her shock, among the countless red lines released by He Yingcai's ten silk threads, most are blocked by the lush lotus leaves, but one red line surpasses Bi He's lotus leaf garments, sticking onto her face.

Bi He trembles heavily!

The next instant, a terrifying energy injects into Bi He's body, disrupting her Divine Power within.

Immediately, thousands of red threads were released by the Tether Silk Robe, tightly binding Bi He's stone body.

"Disciple... Cai'er, do not act rashly! I neglected you before, but I will make amends in the future! For the sake of our past master-disciple relationship..." Bi He trembled as he spoke.

The grand Clear Lotus quietly dissipated.

The once lofty Lord God had lowered himself so much, even begging for mercy.

This scene was incredibly impactful!

Throughout the battles of the Ran Sect, every god and demon they slaughtered was an exalted being, arrogant to the core.

This is a portrait of a class.

It starkly displays a distorted world.

It showcases a pathological ruling class amidst a great disparity in strength between races.

Now, the members of the Ran Sect finally saw a god concede.

Ironically,

this particular god was always known for his aloofness.

"As expected of Bi He, still able to speak," He Yingcai's eyes were filled with deep disappointment.

If possible, she wished Bi He could be like Star Official Moon Spirit, sternly scolding the riffraff.

To die,

one should die atop the Divine Altar.

Not like this, tumbling off the altar and begging for mercy.

"Cai'er! Let me join you; you are slaughtering gods and demons, right? You need an insider, I can help..."

Bi He's words came to an abrupt stop as several more Silk Threads arrived.

Bi He's grand body was wrapped layer upon layer by the endless red threads released by the Tether Silk Robe, forming a "cocoon".

Only the head was exposed, with no less than ten Silk Threads sticking to the blurred face.

He Yingcai lightly observed the god beneath her fingers, mentally transmitting: [Sect Leader.]

The vast majority of Ran Sect warriors have to pray and beg to communicate with Lu Ran. In this intense life-and-death battlefield, how could Lu Ran have any leisure to pay attention to this?

At this moment, he was chasing God Skyspear with the warriors, blocking and encircling the swiftly shuttling Cloud Dragon Roll.

"As expected, it's young Qiang Xiu!"

Lu Ran stopped in his tracks, watching as the Cloud Dragon Roll broke through the encirclement and darted into the night sky.

Skyspear Divine Technique-Cloud Dragon Break!

Break through the formation!

In his line of sight, Yan Chou appeared once again in the higher night sky, fiercely shooting a Sea-piercing Flame towards the angled Cloud Dragon Roll.

"Whoo!!"

Skyspear was clearly trying to escape, immediately reversing the forward thrust direction.

The ambush set by the gods and demons was completely broken, with each god and demon falling one after another, making Skyspear painfully aware of reality.

Confusion, resentment, doubt, anger...

All were buried deep in his heart.

As long as I break out! As long as I pass on this message, the powerful first and second-class gods and demons will naturally come and crush this group of riffraff!

"Whoo!!"

Skyspear, holding a Cloud Spear, rapidly spun, with the surrounding mist rotating with him, and a "cloud dragon" rushed northward.

At the moment he changed direction, a circle of mist suddenly spread out.

Skyspear Divine Technique·Returning Cloud Vortex!

The vast cloud vortex, very expansive, with mist permeating and slowly swirling within.

Following closely, Leng Xushuang, unable to dodge, carried the Ran Sect Lady into it.

The seemingly ordinary mist was particularly sticky, clinging to Leng Xushuang, drastically slowing her flight speed!

"Stop him, quickly stop him!" Si Xianxian flew up alone, frantically launching Sea-piercing Flames, "Evil Shadow, young master! Help me!"

Even if Si Xianxian opened her fairy chariot, she couldn't keep up with the speedily shuttling Cloud Dragon Break.

She loudly called out to the two most powerful, instant teleportation-capable players in her mind.

[Evil Shadow, instant teleport directly into the Cloud Dragon Roll, drag him out! Deliver him to the Mad Immortal!] Lu Ran directly ordered.

[Yes!] Yan Shuangzi responded in a deep voice.

[Mad Immortal, keep the fairy chariot running.] Lu Ran issued another command.

He was always gazing at the night sky, not looking at the enemy, but at the slowly swirling cloud vortex.

No one noticed that the Second-rank Divine Weapon - Rosy Clouds Blade at Lu Ran's waist was lightly trembling.

"Alright, I'll keep going... huh?" Si Xianxian was driving the fairy chariot in pursuit when she suddenly felt she bumped into something.

"Rumble!!"

What's this thing?

Si Xianxian looked ahead, stunned to find that it was Evil Shadow Guardian with Skyspear flashing onto her forward path.

At this moment, Skyspear, being knocked woozy, flew towards the distant night sky.

"Continue!" Si Xianxian became invigorated, raging with flames.

Look at this mess!

I thought it was a speed bump~

Turns out I hit someone... Well, that's even better!

Behind Skyspear, Yan Shuangzi tightly bound his hands, struggling to control the enemy, with a very grim expression.

Apparently, even with Skyspear as a "shield," Yan Shuangzi didn't escape unscathed from the collision!

However, upon hearing Si Xianxian's voice, Yan Shuangzi showed no intention of retreating; she, with Skyspear, flashed again, appearing on the fairy chariot's rushing path.

"Ah!!"

An earth-shattering woman's voice finally awakened the dizzy Skyspear.

In his blurred vision, a large mass of flames roared directly towards him...

"Rumble!!"

...

Chapter 988: Divine Knowledge, Ghostly Perception

Da Xia in the Human World, the land of Jianghuai.

Under the night sky, Luzhou City was peaceful and harmonious, with the Bi He Ancient City within it bustling with tourists and thriving incense offerings.

In a tranquil part of the Inner City, inside the Divine Worship Hall, an elder was kneeling on a prayer mat, praying devoutly.

The elder obviously was aged, yet full of vigor, with white hair and a youthful face.

It appeared, with the help of the Bi He Sect's Divine Technique: Green Dew Wash, his body was well nourished.

The elder suddenly shivered, cautiously raised his head, and looked towards the small stone sculpture deep in the hall: "Lord? You..."

The elder's words came to an abrupt halt, originally in a kneeling position, now sitting up straight with an increasingly respectful expression.

However, this honored astonishment did not last long.

It was as if he heard some astonishing news, his face turned horrified, looking in disbelief at the divine statue, unable to utter another word.

"City Lord Bi?"

"City Lord Bi, it's not good!"

From afar, at the entrance of the hall, came several panicked cries.

The elder with the surname Bi didn't even turn around and shouted sternly: "Silence! Kneel down!"

Several Bi He disciples reflexively knelt down, among them a disciple who rushed too hastily, even breaking the stone tiles underfoot, causing a series of cracking sounds.

"Ah!"

"Hiss..." The next moment, one by one the Bi He disciples inside the hall all twisted their expressions, mostly clutching their heads.

City Lord Bi was about to continue listening to the instructions of Lord Bi He, but it felt like a string in his brain snapped, causing him to hiss in pain.

Afterwards, the divine manifestation ceased.

"Buzz..."

The earth began to tremble, standing out especially in this once peaceful ancient divine city.

"Crack! Crack!"

Immediately following was the sound of stones falling off.

"City Lord! City Lord, I... my contract with Lord Bi He is broken!" a disciple screamed in terror.

"The disciple's contract is also broken!"

"No, no..."

A group of Bi He disciples hurried here in panic, originally to report yet another god falling in Da Xia.

Unexpectedly,

This time the bad news was upon them.

City Lord Bi's eyes were vacant, the rosy glow on his face was now ashen gray.

"It's not good, Lord Bi He she..."

"City Lord Bi! The divine stone sculpture is cracking, stones are falling!"

"City Lord Bi..."

The chaotic noise couldn't reach City Lord Bi's ears, he just knelt numbly on the prayer mat, staring at the small stone sculpture ahead.

Amidst heaven and earth, the sound of shattering continued incessantly.

The noise of stones falling on the ground was deafening.

There was no need to witness it personally, City Lord Bi knew what had happened. There had already been several precedents with divine sculptures shattering and gods falling.

And now, was it Lord Bi He's turn?

On the night of the eleventh of the winter month, in the year 2023, it was supposed to be an ordinary evening.

Yet the Human World was in turmoil.

One divine being after another fell, pushing people's already anxious hearts to the brink of terror!

Since the fifteenth of September, the Ghost Talisman Doll, Ghostly Eyes Ghost, Angry Sea Flame Flood Dragon were cut down in succession, filling the Human Clan with jubilation.

For over forty years, it seemed people finally saw the dawn.

But in the following days, the situation took a drastic turn!

Greedy Wolf, Moon Spirit, Star Official, Yema...

These divine sculptures standing at various places in the Human World shattered one by one, striking all sentient beings like a thunderbolt.

More despairingly, in the midnight of this winter month's eleventh, another group of gods fell.

Without any warning, and shattered one after another!

It was as if all gods had been ambushed by the Evil Demon, wiped out.

Flower Lantern, Bi He, Prisoner Demon, Skyspear, Cloud Mace...

Three were Third-class powerful gods!

One was a Fourth-class god, and one was a Fifth-class god.

The internet completely exploded, filled with messages of unknown authenticity, accompanied by videos and pictures of shattered divine sculptures being madly reposted, spreading across the world.

People's hearts bled.

Crying in sorrow, falling into madness in despair.

The peaceful night was gone for good, countless people were startled awake by phone calls in their slumber, and then knelt long by their small household shrines.

Crowds surged into the streets, shouting frantically, smashing indiscriminately, venting their anger.

Or perhaps, it was venting fear.

What was the use of causing chaos in the streets, what was the purpose?

It was hard to say clearly.

An extreme group, in extreme circumstances, will display any extreme behavior.

But regardless of how they vented, cried, or desperately pleaded, people could not summon back the guardian deities that protected the Human World for over forty years.

The fearful emotion spread from Da Xia to the entire world.

The chaos continued, until the sun rose, shining upon the earth, and Da Xia still couldn't fully calm down.

In the morning.

A convoy, after a night of driving, headed north all the way from Jianghuai land, entered the Central Plains, and arrived at the renowned Mount Song.

Da Xia had a total of four First-class Gods:

Sword One, Qiang Xiu, Martial Monk, Martial Artist.

The ancient city beneath the feet of four deities, also the most renowned within Da Xia:

Beijing Sword Heaven Palace, Chang'an Rust City, Mount Song Vajra Temple, Guangfu Pear Garden.

At this moment, in front of the gate of Vajra Temple, several gate guards dressed as martial monks looked solemn.

They immediately saw that there was a special entourage outside the city gate.

This group was equally dispirited, akin to the dejected ordinary populace, but the aura they exuded was quite extraordinary!

What was more striking was that outside the ancient city, which should have been crowded, the area where this group was felt like a vacuum, as others couldn't withstand their pressure and retreated of their own accord.

Of course, there were also fearless people, who took out their phones from a distance and secretly recorded this special scene.

In these turbulent times, the whole world was in chaos; who knew what such a scene signified?

"Ladies and gentlemen, halt your steps!" A tall martial monk guard blocked the entourage, "May I ask whom you honor, and why you've come to our Vajra Temple?"

An old man stepped forward, lowered his voice: "I am Bi Zhao, the Human World Sect Master of the Bi He Sect."

The martial monk guard suppressed his inner fear, bracing himself to face the imposing great power from the Sea Realm: "Ah, it's City Lord Bi, my apologies, my apologies!

City Lord Bi, please first follow me to rest inside the city, I will immediately send someone to report to our City Lord..."

"No need!" City Lord Bi, almost pulling the guard into the city, said, "I come bearing a decree from Lord Bi He to pay respects to the Martial Monk Lord, there is no time to lose!

Quickly take me to the Divine Worship Hall in the Inner City!"

The martial monk guard's heart grew heavier, all of Da Xia knew that last night was a night of tribulation for the entire human world.

Heaven lamented, earth mourned, the mountains and rivers wept together.

A total of five deities fell during this night.

Among them was Third-class God Bi He!

And now, the Human World Sect Master from the Bi He Sect visits...

"Young friend, pray to the deities now, inform the Martial Monk Lord, saying that Lord Bi He has important information to divulge! Bi He's disciples are in the city, requesting an audience," City Lord Bi said with utmost seriousness.

"Yes!" The martial monk guard nodded heavily.

Even the devotees of the noble First-class Gods find it hard to refuse the command of the mighty Yangyang Sea.

The martial monk guard immediately turned around, looking up at the towering and awe-inspiring Divine Sculpture of the Martial Monk, he worshipped devoutly.

The situation was indeed more severe than imagined.

The martial monk guard had never received a transmission from the Lord God in his lifetime, but this time, after his relentless pleas, he actually received permission!

The Bi He entourage remained in the Outer City, and Bi Zhao, following several martial monk believers, quickly headed towards the Inner City, entering the Divine Worship Hall alone.

"Crack!"

The heavy hall doors closed.

City Lord Bi quickly reached the depths of the hall, knelt on the prayer mat, bowed his head in respect: "Disciple of Bi He, Bi Zhao, greets the Martial Monk Lord."

The hall was solemn, a pin drop could be heard.

City Lord Bi hung his head low, a trace of sorrow in his eyes, speaking in a quivering voice: "Lord Bi He informed the disciple that her true murderer is the Human Clan!"

"Whoosh!!"

Heaven and earth changed color!

The entire Vajra Temple seemed to have the mute button pressed.

Whether inside or outside the city, all were uniformly raising their heads, witnessing a huge remnant shadow of the deity.

This was a male silhouette, standing like a green pine, robust, his body like cast in bronze and iron.

He donned a brownish-yellow martial monk robe, wielding a long staff, a bamboo hat atop his head.

Underneath the hat was a stiff, ancient face.

His expression was solemn, commanding respect without anger!

"Martial Monk Lord!"

"Martial, Martial Monk Lord!!"

"We beg you, save us, save this world..."

"Wuwuwu... Lord God, don't let the evil demons wreak havoc again, kill those demon spirits..."

Within and outside the Vajra Temple, one after another knelt down.

People cried, continually pleading.

And the suddenly appearing remnant shadow of the deity extended a phantom hand, sending a wisp of mist into the Divine Worship Hall.

On the prayer mat deep within the hall, City Lord Bi's eyes widened dramatically, transitioning from a member without a Divine Contract of the Sea Realm to a martial monk believer.

[Speak!] The voice full of authority, like a thunderclap, shook City Lord Bi's mind.

City Lord Bi trembled, through the Divine Contract, conveying the words more clearly from a perspective of worshipful prayer: "Last night, before Lord Bi He passed, she said many things that disciples did not understand.

She wanted the disciples to tell you that the true culprit is not the Faceless Jade Venerable, nor the beings of other battlefields, but the Human Clan.

They come from the human clan of Da Xia!

They originate from the followers of demons under the evil gods of Da Xia, from various schools and sects of the human clan!"

"Buzz!!"

The martial monk remnant shadow stood at the peak of Mount Song, every muscle tense, waves of terrifying momentum surged in all directions.

Under the brim of the bamboo hat, his eyes were filled with wrath.

Like a vajra's angry brows!

At the same time, in the Holy Spirit Mountain Realm.

Within the splendid Qianhua Ridge, a youth wearing a feathered gown and a blood crystal mask stood amidst a sea of flowers.

Dressed in vibrant purples and vivid reds, extravagant yet tasteful.

It was quite fitting for his ethereal immortal posture.

The young immortal consistently tilted his head upwards, gazing thoughtfully at the sky, observing a slowly rotating white cloud vortex.

And in his hand, a Black Ice Blade quivered gently.

The cold, translucent blade began to emit a splendid glow...

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Chapter 989: Heavenly Clouds

The radiance emanating from the Black Ice Blade grew even more dazzling.

The young Immortal finally made a slight move, he held the blade upright before him, lightly resting his forehead against the chilling blade.

The cloudless sky began to gather mist.

Up in the air, beneath the cloud vortex.

Wang Quan stepped on the clouds, performing the Skyspear Divine Technique: Returning Cloud Vortex, while looking around, then gazing below.

Sure enough, he saw the scene where Master Lu was advancing with the Divine Weapon.

Wang Quan sighed inwardly.

Just yesterday, he had asked Lu Ran about the realm of the Dawn Blade.

Unexpectedly, in the early hours of today, he was summoned by Master Lu, needing assistance.

At the time, Wang Quan's body trembled, unsure of what was happening to him.

It was Lu Ran who reassured him, explaining that the evolution of the Skyspear Divine Sculpture was affecting the inheritors due to its expansion.

Wang Quan didn't know what exactly happened last night.

He just remembered yesterday, when the young man had personally said he would kill all the Skyspear: Muddy Cloud Demons...

The mist continued to thicken, completely engulfing Wang Quan, yet he did not stop, shivering slightly as he persisted in casting his technique.

The mist also enveloped the peak of Qianhua Ridge, where a woman clad in a phoenix robe stood.

Her right hand naturally hung down, slender fingers gently twirling a petal, the face usually expressionless finally showed a faint smile.

Like the first thaw of snow and ice, this beautiful sea of flowers seemed to bloom brighter by three degrees.

Unfortunately, the mist swept in, obscuring everything.

However, after a short quarter of an hour, Qianhua Ridge returned to its former splendor.

The mist slowly dissipated.

In the sea of flowers, the young man was surrounded by intense divine power fluctuations, the Black Ice Blade in his hand shimmering brightly.

"Congratulations."

The woman on the ridge slowly flew by.

"Finally!" Lu Ran slowly opened his eyes, his gaze dazzling.

"What is the second domain like?" Jiang Ruyi's voice was soft, with a touch of curiosity in her heart.

Lu Ran looked up to see Wang Quan still standing in the air, continually casting.

The slowly swirling cloud vortex, indistinguishable from heavenly phenomena, was grand in scale.

[Uncle Wang, come back.] Lu Ran transmitted.

Wang Quan's body tightened; he had just joined the Ran Sect yesterday and was not yet accustomed to the divine telepathy.

He descended slowly, only to see Lu Ran's feather robe fluttering vigorously, a brilliant radiance emanating from the blade tip like a fine beam of light shooting straight into the sky.

"Ha!!"

A surge of astonishing energy roiled from the heights of heaven.

With the fineline radiance beam as the center point, the clouds spread out.

These were not ordinary white clouds, nor oppressive dark clouds.

Perhaps they should be called Blessed Clouds!

Pale red, orange red, gold red, deep red...

Layer upon layer of blessed clouds covered the sky, dyeing the world with a dreamlike hue, then the clouds slowly swirled, forming a gigantic whirlpool.

"I'm really foolish." Lu Ran's eyes seemed somewhat dazed as he gazed at the firmament.

"Why?"

"I've seen the second domain of the Dawn Blade's Divine Weapon long before..." Lu Ran murmured, then suddenly added, "In fact, you've seen it too; can you remember?"

Jiang Ruyi contemplated for a moment, recalling the full moon night in Rain Alley City years ago.

On that night, there was a special event: Night of Ghosts.

The incoming invaders were the powerful Second-class Evil Demons: Paper Kite Clan.

It was on that night that Lu Ran, wielding the Dawn Blade, realized the First Divine Weapon Domain and released beams of radiance into the night sky.

Burning the Paper Kite Clan to ashes.

There was a detail!

Once the domain was realized by both weapon and master for the first time, it led to heavenly signs, forming a cloud and mist vortex in the sky; amidst this unique environment, the beams of radiance uniquely fused with the sky vortex.

Transforming into a whirlpool of blessed clouds!

Rain Alley City, bright as daylight.

The invading Paper Kite Clan emerged from the night sky, turning the whirlpool into the Clan's nightmare.

That night was also the night of "Heavenly Pride."

Lu Ran, under the nationwide watch, burned the constantly emerging Paper Kite Clan, forcibly stopping the evil invasion.

The special event: Night of Ghosts was abruptly halted!

It was utterly stunning!

"I remember." Jiang Ruyi looked up, spoke softly, "It's different from the vortex back then."

That night, Rain Alley City was drenched in continuous rain, and after the disappearance of the descending Fog Dragon Roll, there was a wide gap in the center of the dark cloud vortex left behind.

But now, brilliant blessed clouds filled the sky, swirling slowly around the fine light beam center.

Almost no gaps, sealing the entire sky!

How could the forms be identical?

Hmm... so Lu Ran isn't particularly foolish.

Jiang Ruyi thought secretly.

"The name of the Divine Weapon Domain also needs a change." Lu Ran gazed at the blessed cloud whirlpool, unimaginable how scorching it would be inside.

Could it burn down the God and Demon Sculptures?

The Dawn Blade is presently Third Rank, corresponding to Heavenly Grade; it should still be impossible.

Just wait for the Dawn Blade to advance to Fourth Rank, reaching Divine Grade, and with each Divine Weapon Domain's damage output maxed, perhaps then it could confront Divine Demon.

"Hmm..." Jiang Ruyi probably understood what Lu Ran meant.

Because the First Divine Weapon Domain of the Dawn Blade was named Thousands of Auspicious Colors, containing the word "Blessed Clouds."

But its external manifestation is like releasing silk-like radiance, swirling and burning enemies.

"The First Divine Weapon Domain shall be named Thousands of Auspicious Colors."

Lu Ran, wielding the Dawn Blade, stopped casting spells and continued, "This second Divine Weapon Domain, let's call it 'Heavenly Clouds'."

"Buzz~" The Dawn Blade trembled slightly.

Lu Ran brushed two fingers over the blade of the Dawn Blade, "As long as you agree."

"Congratulations, Master Lu." A raspy voice came from not far away.

"My apologies, Uncle Wang." Lu Ran turned and summoned an Ancient Bronze Mirror beside him, "You go back to cultivate first."

"Yes!" Wang Quan walked over swiftly, nodding at the Lady of Ran Sect, then quickly entered the mirror.

As Lu Ran dispersed the Landing Mirror, he suddenly turned around and embraced the woman in the phoenix robe.

"Hmm." Jiang Ruyi closed her eyes instinctively, her upper body slightly leaning back.

Lu Ran, emboldened by his newly-advanced Divine Weapon and his undiminished Divinity, challenged the pressure of the Goddess and planted a kiss on her soft lips.

Yet this long-awaited kiss did not go as planned.

"Eh?" Lu Ran only then realized he was still wearing a Blood Crystal Mask.

Jiang Ruyi, both annoyed and amused, finally understood why Lu Ran didn't return to Tianya Haijiao with her.

She whispered softly, "Call back the Shadow Guards, let's go back too. Don't linger here."

"Oh." Lu Ran responded quietly, patting the mask on his face.

You've got it easy this time!

Blood Crystal Mask: "..."

[Next time, be sensible and make way. I finally mustered up the courage!] Lu Ran transmitted a hint of Heart Thought.

Blood Crystal Mask: "..."

The two led the team back to Tianya Haijiao, stepping into the misty Tianya Residence.

Amidst the fog, Jiang Ruyi spoke, "The Prisoner's Lock, Bi He's Bag, and that pair of stone clubs, how do you plan to distribute them?"

Lu Ran pondered, "The Prisoner's Lock, let's reward the Evil Shadow Guardian with it, how about that?"

"Evil Shadow..."

"She can become invisible, can teleport instantly; in the last two battles, she directly tossed the enemies into our traps. Giving her a Prisoner's Lock would surely be the icing on the cake!" Lu Ran was very confident.

"Alright." Jiang Ruyi nodded softly.

Yan Shuangzi, having fused the Divine Souls of the Greedy Wolf and Evil Dog, possessed extremely special skills and was definitely the ace of the Ran Sect.

The specific effect of the Prisoner's Lock can be simply understood as a combination of the Silk Thread and Tangled Silk Shadow.

With such an item in Yan Shuangzi's hands, it is bound to become a nightmare for the gods and demons!

Lu Ran continued, "Once Tu Feng completes the fusion of the Divine Soul, we will give him the stone clubs."

Even now, Tu Feng doesn't have a weapon that suits him, still holding onto a First Rank Divine Weapon, the Sky-piercing Halberd, which Lu Ran assigned to him.

Back in the day, the Peak Master of Wuji Peak held the Xuanhuang Stick and wore the Ripple Shoes of Three Thousand Ripples...

But all his Divine Weapons and Magic Artifacts were stripped by Lu Ran.

Now they are all in the hands of He Qifeng.

When Tu Feng returned to the Mountain Realm as the Second-class Executioner and issued a final ultimatum to He Qifeng, he didn't demand treasures from the Wind Emperor. Instead, when the Divine Weapons and Magic Artifacts were about to return, he actively refused them.

Lu Ran could barely imagine Tu Feng's state of mind at that time.

But one thing was certain.

He didn't want to extinguish the flame of hope of the Human Clan, wishing for Da Xia's second Heavenly Pride to gain an edge in combat.

Trying to survive under the cruel rule of gods and demons...

Now, it's time to provide Tu Feng with a couple of suitable Divine Weapons.

Such a Great Martial Monk, although without the Three Heads and Six Arms, has the eight arms of the Prison Sky Clan.

Coupled with the skill of Power Amplification, the Power of Lao Tian.

This pair of extremely heavy stone clubs are the perfect gift for Tu Feng.

His combat power will inevitably skyrocket!

"That works too." Jiang Ruyi approved, "Now that Tu Heaven General has obtained a Divine Position, he should shift roles and become the sharp blade of the Ran Sect."

After last night's battle, as the Ran Sect cleaned the battlefield, it became clear that the Prisoner Demon was not a God and Demon Unification entity after all.

The Third-class Evil God, Prison Sky Demon, still roams outside.

However, possessing the Divine Position of the Prisoner Demon, Tu Feng can now utilize both the techniques of the Prisoner Demon and the Prison Sky Demon, all as Divine Grade.

He is naturally suitable for the "sharp blade" position.

But it was last night that He Yingcai devoured the Divine Soul of Bi He, completing the Divine Position.

Young Yuanxi also harvested the Divine Souls of both the Flower Lantern and Black Lantern.

Give them some time to merge these techniques, who knows what terrifying effects they might achieve.

"Is the Fourth Rank Magic Artifact, Bi He's Bag, already with Sister Xian'er?" Lu Ran asked.

When the Ran Sect confiscated artifacts last night, Lu Ran noticed the "Little Fragrance Bag" resembled a sachet and conveniently renamed it.

Jiang Ruyi: "You only had her keep it, no specific reward was mentioned."

Lu Ran chuckled, "Bi He's Bag can calm the mind, protect the bearer's spirit. Since Sister Xian'er lacks Spirit Defense techniques, she should keep it."

"Yes, I will inform her." Jiang Ruyi smiled too.

Since the battle, the Mad Immortal Guardian, carrying the sachet, entered the Sculpture Garden, occasionally taking it out to admire. She seemed to be utterly fond of it.

Now with Lu Ran's decision, knowing about it should make Sister Xian'er particularly happy.

"Alright, I'll find a place to give it my all."

"Give it your all?" Jiang Ruyi was a bit puzzled.

"Before the Dawn Blade perceives the second domain, it already encountered the third domain, but unfortunately, I don't have the Realm to comprehend it beyond its level."

Jiang Ruyi: "..."

"I'll take it to find some inspiration." Lu Ran suddenly removed the Blood Crystal Mask, leaned in to his Evil God girlfriend, and softly imprinted a kiss on her lovely lips.

Brief as a dragonfly touching the water.

Lu Ran suppressed his racing heart and instantly teleported away.

In the dense mist, Jiang Ruyi's beautiful eyes widened slightly, frozen in place.

For a long while, she pressed her lips together, feeling both shy and annoyed.

What a timid fellow.

Only if you had half the momentum you use to slay gods and demons; you wouldn't be this flustered...

...

Chapter 990: If the Evening Glow Does Not Come...

Lu Ran, who fled in panic, wandered through many places in the Holy Spirit Mountain Realm, and finally arrived at the old site of the sect—Cloud Sea Cliff.

The weather here is very peculiar.

Directly above, a patch of dark clouds loomed, with drizzle falling, but in the distance, it was clear skies for miles.

Lu Ran hesitated for a moment and chose to settle here. Perhaps the drizzle would soon cease, and at dusk, he might see the beautiful evening glow.

This is precisely what the Dawn Blade needs.

Returning to his old home, Lu Ran couldn't help but feel a pang of nostalgia.

The former sect site, once like a paradise, now lay desolate, with remnants of walls vaguely visible.

Only Lu Ran's Cloud Sea Residence still quietly stood in the mountain forest, but after years of wind and rain, it appeared quite dilapidated.

Standing in the overgrown courtyard, Lu Ran gazed at the familiar house and suddenly recalled a song lyric.

"Rain falls heavily, the grass and trees overgrow the old hometown..."

Humming softly, memories flooded Lu Ran's mind continuously.

He once lay on a rocking chair in this small courtyard with little Ruyi, watching the stars together.

He used to observe the swaying Xian Mo flowers outside through the carved wooden windows of his bedroom, falling asleep to their faint fragrance.

In the backyard, he once gathered clusters of campfires, laughing and playing with friends and family.

"Can't go back anymore..."

Lu Ran murmured, his raised palm paused in front of the old wooden door of the house. After a long hesitation, he still did not push open that aged door.

Perhaps one day in the future, after achieving success and fame, he would return to this place where his dreams began.

To be a carefree wanderer?

It sounded quite appealing when considered.

The next moment, Lu Ran appeared at the sea cliff, sitting on the edge, with his legs dangling outside.

Eight hundred meters below, waves crashed against the shore, majestic and powerful.

This place hadn't changed a bit.

What changed was only the youth seated at the cliff.

From a weak Vast River to a commanding Yangyang Sea, and now to the lofty heights over the Mountain Realm.

From crude bamboo hat and bamboo clothes to the noble Black Gold Emperor Robe.

And now to the ethereal immortal robe fluttering gracefully.

Silently, Lu Ran drew the Dawn Blade from his waist, raised it slightly, letting the fine drizzle wet it, and cleaned the blade gently with two fingers.

Things did not go as planned; he couldn't wait for the sunset glow.

But he welcomed the dawn!

The red sun rose, casting rays for thousands of miles.

Lu Ran quietly gazed at the eastern sky, trying to comprehend something from this beautiful picture.

The immortal robe and ribbons fluttered lightly, while the young man seemed like a meditating monk, allowing the sun to rise and set, the day and night to alternate.

In the blink of an eye, it was already the seventeenth day of the lunar calendar.

The young man sitting quietly at the sea cliff was disturbed by a small exquisite phoenix.

"Chirp~"

"Hmm?" Lu Ran's eyes gradually regained focus, and he saw the little Blazing Phoenix, woven from fiery lines, fly out from his wide robe, circling around him.

"What's the matter?" Lu Ran spread out his palm.

The little Blazing Phoenix flapped its little hollow wings, landing in its master's palm.

Innocent words conveyed a hint of heart thought: [Become a God! Yuanxi, succeeded~]

"Oh?" Lu Ran's eyes lit up.

On the fourteenth day of the lunar month, Tu Feng and He Yingcai had become gods one after another. Lu Ran had already entered the gourd once to bring them back to the Sculpture Garden.

Now little Yuanxi succeeded too?

"Phew~" Lu Ran's figure gradually shrunk, entering the mouth of the gourd.

The Fiery Phoenix Patterned Gourd, which ordinary people could hold in one hand, contained a universe within!

The diminutive Lu Ran fell into it, immediately surrounded by mist, which mixed with Holy Spirit Energy, nourishing his flesh and body.

Lu Ran had advanced to the Heavenly Realm's second layer on the seventh day of the seventh lunar month, and now, in the winter month, it might take him a year or two to break through with normal cultivation.

However, in recent months, Lu Ran slayed gods and demons. Every time the Divine and Evil Sculptures shattered, he enjoyed immense nourishment!

Although the process was short, it was far more satisfying than purifying Holy Spirit Energy and strengthening his body on his own.

He had a premonition that maybe he could break through the cultivation bottleneck if he slayed a few more gods and demons.

In thought, Lu Ran arrived at the middle section of the gourd and saw the "Divine Power Lake" below.

In the lake, a stone sculpture slowly floated up.

The little Blazing Phoenix had long been capable of imprisoning living beings. At the third rank, it could render people from the Sea Realm immobile and at one's mercy.

Now ascended to the fourth rank, it could already confine those in the Heavenly Realm!

Although Qiao Yuansi was in the God Realm, the little Blazing Phoenix couldn't do much to her. However, as long as the Lord God did not resist, the little one could still easily manage.

At this moment, little Yuanxi was "snared" to Lu Ran's feet by the entwining Divine Power currents.

"Congratulations!" Lu Ran descended downward.

"Hehe~" Qiao Yuansi was extremely happy, reaching out with one hand, gently pinching the tiny human clan between two fingers.

"No!" Lu Ran was a little bewildered.

Other Ran Sect warriors spread their palms out, used as a lure for the Sect Leader.

But little Yuanxi, straight to pinching?

"Brother is so tiny?"

Qiao Yuansi pinched Lu Ran, brought him close to her eye, closed her left eye, and with a gigantic right eye, closely examined the little person between her fingers.

Lu Ran was in a panic.

At this moment, little Yuanxi was a complete deity, merging the Divine Souls of Flower Lantern and Black Lantern!

It was overwhelming!

"You come back first." Lu Ran spoke.

"Huh?" Qiao Yuansi pouted, pinching Lu Ran in discontent, "I still want to play with you for a while."

Lu Ran rolled his eyes.

Play what?

Are you playing with me?

"By the way, brother, can you teach me how to create a physical body?" Qiao Yuansi raised her hand and poked her own cheek, "It's turned to stone, really uncomfortable."

"Alright," Lu Ran replied helplessly.

A few minutes later, Qiao Yuansi's real body returned to the Sculpture Garden, while her physical body followed Lu Ran, flying out from the gourd.

"Isn't this the Cloud Sea Cliff?" Qiao Yuansi stood at the edge of the cliff, looking around with delight.

"Yes," Lu Ran responded in a low voice.

Qiao Yuansi initially wanted to visit the old residence but, seeing Lu Ran sitting with his head lowered, couldn't help but blink at him.

Suddenly, she knelt down, hugging Lu Ran's arm with both hands.

Lu Ran's heart leapt to his throat!

"What's wrong?" Qiao Yuansi laughed as her eyes curved like moons, tilting her little head at someone's stiff expression, "Are you afraid of me?"

Lu Ran: "..."

Seeing him silent, Qiao Yuansi smiled even sweeter.

My dear brother~

You can finally experience my life.

For so many years, Qiao Yuansi was always afraid of her brother, intimidated by her sister-in-law, living fearfully under her mother's shadow.

Now with the Divine Position in hand, she finally gets to turn the tables and sing as a liberated being!

Her face suddenly moved closer, her beautiful big eyes sparkling, chasing Lu Ran's shifty gaze, she said with a giggle:

"You seem like a child who did something wrong, so cute~"

Lu Ran: ???

"Hahahahaha~" The impression of the cute and mischievous Yuanxi somehow laughed like a villain.

Lu Ran said irritably, "You go play for a bit, I'm waiting for the sunset. If it doesn't happen, I'll take you back to the Human World."

"Going home?" Qiao Yuansi immediately perked up.

"Yes, I've promised you a long time ago that once we reach the Heavenly Realm, I'll take you back to see mom." Lu Ran snorted.

The plan was originally like this.

But Lu Ran, the helpful brother, was too competent, and Qiao Yuansi had just ascended to the Heavenly Realm before doing a three consecutive leap with his help.

She even fused with the Double Divine Position.

Becoming the supreme existence within the Three Realms!

"That's great~" Qiao Yuansi was overjoyed, suddenly leaned in, and heavily kissed Lu Ran's cheek.

Lu Ran didn't feel it.

Because he was still wearing the Blood Crystal Mask...

This Magic Artifact following Lu Ran, surely had its ancestral tomb smoking with good fortune.

In just a few days, it had been kissed by two goddesses.

"Go play, adapt to your new body," Lu Ran said sullenly.

Sister's realm ascension was too quick, and her habits probably still linger in the Sea Realm rank, needing good adjustment.

"Mmm-hmm," Qiao Yuansi no longer teased Lu Ran, her figure gradually rose and flew towards the remembered home.

"Phew..." Lu Ran let out a deep breath, slowly stood up.

He lightly gripped the Dawn Blade, turned to gaze at the western sky.

Now that Tu Feng, He Yingcai, and Qiao Yuansi have all returned to their positions, only the Skyspear and Cloud Mace are still buzzing inside the gourd.

Starting later, the two had crossed the Sea Realm only recently on the fifteenth, now at the second level of the Heavenly Realm.

For these two generals, the Ran Sect had several warriors staying inside the gourd, diligently cultivating them.

In a few days, the warriors should be liberated and return to the garden.

It's time for him to return to the Human World, report to the Immortal Sheep, and set the upcoming task goals.

Hopefully, a sunset can descend soon.

Hopefully, the Dawn Blade can have some insights.

If there's no gain this time, Lu Ran can't keep waiting.

Time passed minute by minute, the sky gradually darkened.

Lu Ran was a bit disappointed; the sunset did not come, the Dawn Blade perhaps also was hard to inspire.

"Sigh..." Lu Ran let out a long sigh.

How can everything go as planned?

The Dawn Blade clearly indicated having some feelings for the Third Divine Weapon Domain, yet after days of contemplation with Lu Ran, still couldn't fathom the mystery.

Let's wait for next time.

Wait for the time for slaying gods and demons to return...

"Buzz~" The Dawn Blade suddenly trembled.

Amidst the surge of energy, a phantom figure appeared beside Lu Ran, standing alongside him.

"What's up?" Lu Ran turned to look at the Artifact Spirit.

[The sunset didn't come.]

"Mm," Lu Ran looked at the youthful version of himself, not seeing even the slightest trace of discouragement on the other's face.

Despite so many years passing, accompanying Lu Ran through the wars across the Three Realms and worldly pains, he still stood proud.

Still full of spirit.

Time eroded the youthful shyness from Lu Ran, turned his eyes cold, turned them gloomy.

Yet couldn't stain the youthful Lu Ran's bright and lively eyes.

The youth turned his head, revealing a smile: [Maybe we thought wrong.]

"Oh?" Lu Ran raised his eyebrows slightly.

The youth slightly raised his head, gesturing towards the sky: [All these days, we've been waiting for the sunset to appear in the sky above.

Perhaps, this sky is waiting for us to grant it a sunset.]

Lu Ran gently gripped the handle of the blade.

Looking at the youth's clear smile, he raised his eyelids and gazed at the dim sky.

...