

Powerful 1001

Chapter 1001: Teleportation Array

It was a dark passageway, seemingly leading to a natural dungeon at its deep end.

Sass sat weakly on the ground, his eyes vacant as he stared at the depths of the cave, repeatedly muttering:

"It's here, it's here, it's here..."

Indeed, although there was no trace of the Dusk Race here, there were evident signs of their activities.

For example, beneath the stone wall, there were some crooked inscriptions!

Although deliberately erased by some force, fragments remained.

Clearly, Sass recognized them at a glance.

Undoubtedly, the tribe members of the Dusk Race had been secretly transferred once again.

The perplexing thing for Yang Yan was that so many people left right in front of him, yet he didn't notice a thing.

How did Manhattan do it?

While he was pondering this deeply, Fu Changjian suddenly walked over and took him to a rather special place.

This was a Teleportation Array located above the Underground Palace, beneath the iceberg.

Sass followed last and instantly recognized the origins of this thing.

"A broken Teleportation Array left by the Demon Lord from Ancient Times! There's actually one here, and it's been repaired by Manhattan!"

Yang Yan suddenly found Sass's old face somewhat endearing and asked in a deep voice:

"So, is there another identical, intact Teleportation Array somewhere else?"

Sass listened and nodded firmly:

"Yes! My tribe members of the Dusk Race must have been teleported to another place by this Teleportation Array!"

Yang Yan looked at the nine slots surrounding the Teleportation Array and fell into deep thought.

Then he pointed at the nine slots and asked Sass:

"Do you know what these are for? I think this Teleportation Array also needs energy to activate, right?"

Sass gazed at the slots, his face full of recollection:

"These slots, in Ancient Times, required Blood Crystals to activate. Now... those Blood Pills will do!"

"Blood Pills?"

Yang Yan was startled upon hearing this and took out a Blood Pill he had just seized from Manhattan, asking suspiciously:

"Is it this thing?"

"Yes! That's it."

Sass nodded again.

"I only have two and a half, and Ao Tian has one, that's three and a half, which is still not enough..."

Yang Yan thought very simply.

You want to teleport, right?

This Teleportation Array is not broken either, so why don't I just use it to teleport over and find the people?

Just afraid that Manhattan would be too cautious and directly destroy the Teleportation Array over there.

After listening, Sass carefully touched some slots and then signaled Yang Yan to hand him the Blood Pill.

Yang Yan did not mind and directly threw the Blood Pill over.

Sass caught it and placed the Blood Pill on the slot.

Buzz...

Accompanied by a slight tremor, the slot emitted a dazzling red light.

The touch of eerie red glow appeared exceptionally enchanting in the surrounding darkness.

"Give me that half."

Sass clearly remembered that Yang Yan had seized the half Blood Pill that Nine Netherworld Demon Monarch had not yet absorbed.

Yang Yan did not hesitate, retrieved it, and accurately threw it on the slot.

Surprisingly, that slot also emitted a crimson red glow.

Just slightly dimmer.

"It works!"

Sass excitedly nodded again and raised five fingers.

"Only need five... No! Four and a half is enough! I need four and a half Blood Pills!"

At this point, Sass eagerly looked at Yang Yan.

If anyone could provide them, it would be Yang Yan.

Yang Yan smiled helplessly:

"I only have two and a half, Ao Tian has one, still missing one."

Sass's face instantly showed full disappointment.

Seeing him like this, Yang Yan suddenly burst into laughter:

"But I know there are many sacrificial sites and bases of Manhattan here, I don't believe we can't find one out."

Sass raised his head suddenly, full of anticipation, and said:

"Really? That would be great!"

His voice trembled noticeably, his hands subconsciously gripping Yang Yan's arm.

"Stop, stop, stop! We still have to meet up with Ao Tian first, let's not rush."

Yang Yan saw Sass already about to offer himself, quickly pushed him away.

While speaking, Yang Yan began trying to communicate with Ao Tian.

Prior to this, the two had left soul marks on each other to facilitate communication.

Unfortunately, after searching for a long time, he found nothing.

He felt an invisible barrier blocking between him and Ao Tian, completely unable to contact each other.

"What on earth is going on? Wasn't the barrier here already broken? Why can't we still communicate..."

Yang Yan muttered to himself.

However, after trying several times, it seemed not to be the case.

Yang Yan couldn't help but frown.

"King, what's wrong?"

Fu Changjian guessed that something must have happened from Yang Yan's expression.

"I don't know, can't reach him."

Yang Yan shook his head and said.

"Nothing happened to the Ice Emperor, right?"

Gongsun Ruyan said with some concern.

"Impossible!"

Yang Yan immediately shook his head:

"Even if something happens, with Ao Tian's strength, it's impossible to not have time to send me a message. Unless..."

Yang Yan glanced at the few people in front of him, cautiously saying:

"Unless Ao Tian mistakenly entered somewhere, causing him to be trapped."

"There must be something that isolates Divine Sense there, so Ao Tian can't send a message out, and I can't contact him through the soul mark."

"This..."

Gongsun Ruyan lightly shook her head, remained silent.

"Can we first find those bases of Manhattan? First collect enough Blood Pills and save our Clan Leader and elders from the Dusk Race!"

Sass looked at Yang Yan eagerly and said.

"What do you think?"

Yang Yan put his hands in his pockets, said with a smile:

"The Dusk Race has been a great help to me, but frankly, the entire Dusk Race doesn't weigh as much in my heart as the Ice Emperor Ao Tian does."

"Moonlight, you..."

Sass was quite dissatisfied, but finally compromised and said:

"Isn't he very strong? Surely nothing will happen."

"I promise you, as long as you can rescue the Clan Leader, I will definitely persuade him to lead the Dusk Race to join you!"

Already taking the Dusk Race as something in his pocket, Yang Yan shrugged:

"No matter what, I have to find Ao Tian first."

"Moreover, he has a Blood Pill too, same objective as us finding a base. Isn't that right?"

Sass was momentarily speechless.

Of course, Blood Pills must be collected!

Therefore, Ao Tian must be found.

To prevent the great array from being destroyed by Manhattan when he returns, Yang Yan specifically set up a protective measure outside the array.

Moreover, if Manhattan triggers it, he can be informed immediately.

In his view, this Teleportation Array certainly would transport over a long distance.

Manhattan was taken away by Sand King, not teleported.

As long as Yang Yan was fast enough, after finding Ao Tian and gathering the Blood Pills.

Regardless of whether Manhattan intends to destroy the other Teleportation Array, Yang Yan can arrive there first, and rescue the Dusk Race.

Chapter 1002: The Eerie Demon Cave

"Let's go!"

After arranging everything, Yang Yan immediately led everyone to the place where they had previously parted ways with Ao Tian.

They followed in the direction Ao Tian had set off to search.

In Yang Yan's view, Ao Tian wouldn't have deviated from the direction for no reason.

If that were the case, looking for Ao Tian in the vast Arctic would be like finding a needle in a haystack.

The group of five, including the cumbersome Elder Sass, headed directly in the direction of Ao Tian's exploration.

Sass's stamina and speed were the worst among them, so ultimately, Yang Yan carried him while flying.

Along the way, everyone searched continuously, stopping only briefly for rest, and hardly paused at all.

Under their frenetic search, about three hours later, they finally found a particular location on their path forward.

In the ice-covered Arctic, Yang Yan discovered a stone mountain with no snow or ice!

The stone mountain was made up of various giant rocks.

Not only the stone mountain, but even the area around it was devoid of any ice or snow.

It seemed as if this place was in isolation and completely different from the surroundings!

"My King, this place is very unusual,"

Gongsun Ruyan pointed at the barren stone mountain and said.

This stone mountain wouldn't draw any attention in any city outside.

Yet here, with its peculiar appearance, it was hard not to notice.

"Can you sense anything?"

Yang Yan suddenly asked Sass.

"Me? I didn't sense the Clan Leader and them."

Sass shook his head in confusion.

"Who told you to sense the Clan Leader! I was asking if you sensed anything else?"

Yang Yan said exasperatedly.

The reason he asked was because, during the search, he discovered Sass could actually perceive the presence of certain special energies.

For instance, Demonic Qi.

And this mountain was indeed very strange.

Yang Yan's Divine Sense was unable to probe into the specific circumstances.

His Divine Sense could only cover the surface and couldn't penetrate even a millimeter.

Sass concentrated for a while, then shook his head helplessly and said:

"I can't sense anything. But I know there's something terrifying inside."

"You can't sense anything yet you know it's terrifying inside?"

Yang Yan almost turned around to give Sass a thump on the head.

Sass awkwardly said:

"I don't know! It's just... just a sense of foreboding."

He subconsciously glanced at Yang Yan.

This person in front of him, with their talent, could rival the Ancient Three Sovereigns and Five Emperors; if even he couldn't do anything, it was likely hopeless.

"Got it."

Yang Yan sighed helplessly, it was a wasted question.

"Ruyan, you're up."

Yang Yan turned his head and instructed Gongsun Ruyan.

"Yes!"

Receiving the order, Gongsun Ruyan suddenly had a silver longsword in her hand.

The next moment, she shot toward the stone mountain like a cannonball.

The imagined earth-shaking Celestial Thunder didn't occur.

The reality was...

Gongsun Ruyan vanished!

She transformed into a streak of silver and rushed into the stone mountain.

Yes!

Rushed straight in!

Then disappeared without a trace; her aura and power fluctuations were all cut off.

"Damn! How dare you touch my woman!"

Seeing the stone mountain swallow up Gongsun Ruyan, Yang Yan couldn't sit still.

His eyes flashed fiercely as Star Night appeared, gleaming in his hand.

Zhuge Wushuang blushed upon hearing Yang Yan's words.

Fu Changjian, on the other hand, gave a knowing smile.

If Gongsun Ruyan was Yang Yan's woman, then wouldn't Zhuge Wushuang and the absent Mu Qingcheng be as well?

Prior to this, Yang Yan had always avoided discussing their relationships.

Whenever the three women tried to get to the bottom, he would either sidestep the topic or slip away quickly.

Though her heart seemed filled with honey, Zhuge Wushuang quickly recovered from her surprise and immediately stopped Yang Yan.

"My King, we don't know what danger lies inside, let me try first!"

Yang Yan glanced back at her, shook his head, and said:

"Wushuang, and Longsword, listen carefully! I now command you as Four Emperors Moonlight."

"If I go in, no matter what happens, you must not follow. Stay here and protect Sass, understood?"

Fu Changjian and Zhuge Wushuang exchanged glances, then nodded and replied in unison:

"Understood, my King!"

"Good!"

Yang Yan nodded in satisfaction, his leadership over his women...

Bah!

His ability to guide his subordinates was quite effective!

"Moonlight, wait a moment."

At this point, Sass suddenly stood out and called out.

"What is it? You don't intend to come with me, do you?"

Yang Yan frowned slightly.

However, what Sass said nearly made him cough up blood.

"Moonlight, what if you get trapped inside and can't come out? Do we just wait here for you?"

The most critical part was that Sass's expression was quite serious, as if it were a matter of course.

Yang Yan rolled his eyes and already charged towards the stone mountain.

"Wait for ten days; if I don't return, you all should leave!"

Pop!

After wielding Star Night and charging forward, just like with Gongsun Ruyan, his body rushed straight into the stone mountain.

Once inside, the scene before Yang Yan immediately changed.

He had no time to admire it and hurriedly looked around, but he couldn't find Gongsun Ruyan's figure.

Only then did he start observing the surroundings.

Above were numerous massive stone chambers; beneath his feet was a solid stone platform.

The surroundings were pitch-black as ink, with no light at all.

Even with his strength, he could only barely see ten meters around him by focusing his eyes.

"Why is there such dense Demonic Qi here? And that old guy said he couldn't sense it?"

Yang Yan suddenly realized that what obstructed his vision was indeed the overwhelming and terrifying Demonic Qi!

Could Ao Tian have accidentally stumbled into this Demon Cave?

For a moment, Yang Yan was both shocked and delighted.

Yang Yan's guess was not wrong at all.

The three of them hadn't just reached the Demon Cave; they reached the most elite kind.

"Was it random entry?"

Yang Yan murmured to himself softly.

Then he composed himself, scanned the surroundings once more, and still didn't see Gongsun Ruyan.

Here, the potent role of his Divine Sense had disappeared, only slightly better than sight.

Even with all his might, he could only probe around thirty meters away with Divine Sense.

Beyond that, everything was blocked by thick Demonic Qi that he couldn't penetrate further.

This damned place was full of strangeness!

Might as well use force to break it, smashing it away!

As soon as the thought occurred, Yang Yan hesitated no more and prepared to act.

Chapter 1003: The Pitch-Black Passage

The external can't be destroyed, but that doesn't mean the inside can't, right?

Yang Yan leaped up, and Star Night chopped down with immense force onto the stone cave.

Before he even reached it, the familiar barrier reappeared.

The structure of this barrier's power was exactly the same as the one in Manhattan on the iceberg.

It's just that this one's much stronger.

Yang Yan's full-powered strike was completely absorbed by it.

In an instant, he felt his strength disappearing like a clay ox entering the sea, unable to shake the barrier at all.

"Oh well, Ao Tian, that guy is really in trouble now."

Yang Yan stood back on the ground, looked at the stone cave, shook his sore hand, and sighed.

He couldn't believe Ao Tian, such a violent guy, hadn't thought of this method.

Obviously, he hadn't succeeded either and eventually gave up.

So, Yang Yan could only honestly start searching ahead.

Luckily, his Divine Sense could cover some areas, so he wasn't completely blind.

The environment here, apart from being a bit oppressive, didn't seem special to him.

Of course, such dense Demonic Qi would cause an ordinary person to lose their nature and turn into a demon.

Yang Yan didn't dare underestimate this dense Demonic Qi and set up a protective shield around his body to keep it at bay.

About a quarter of an hour later, Yang Yan's Divine Sense clearly sensed a change in the scene ahead.

There was a stream in front, neither wide nor long.

The whole stream was blood-red, and human faces occasionally emerged within it.

It looked quite eerie.

In the middle of the stream was a path made of several pebbles.

The kind of small pebbles that many ordinary people use for exercise by walking barefoot on them.

Logically speaking, the stream wasn't shallow, so how could those pebbles remain on the surface without sinking or being washed away?

It's as if there's soil underneath, rooting them in place.

However, that's not the point.

The point is that Gongsun Ruyan, who had entered just before Yang Yan, was on this narrow path.

Motionless, facing forward, with her back to Yang Yan.

It was clear that Gongsun Ruyan had reached halfway across and was about to make it.

But right at that moment, she stood still, not moving at all.

Under the coverage of Yang Yan's Divine Sense, Gongsun Ruyan had her eyes closed.

Her face was rosy, and she looked peaceful, as if she's not in danger.

But on both sides of the path, where Gongsun Ruyan's feet were, gathered dense, white, terrifying ghostly faces craving something.

These ghostly faces looked similar with one common feature: they all stared unwaveringly at Gongsun Ruyan with eyes like fish pearls.

It seemed that if she fell, they'd devour her instantly.

"Ruyan!"

Yang Yan realized something was wrong, and his voice, filled with strength, pierced Gongsun Ruyan's eardrums.

However, Gongsun Ruyan remained unmoved, as if she hadn't heard anything.

Yang Yan frowned, contemplating, and noticed Gongsun Ruyan's body suddenly swayed as if she was about to fall!

Yang Yan rushed over in a panic, deciding to save her first.

But just like when he first entered the stone cave, as soon as he stepped on the stone path, the scene in front of him changed abruptly.

Yang Yan felt as if he had completed everything, defeated all enemies, and unified a certain world, becoming the supreme ruler.

In his newly built palace, Zhou Hanyun and some other women, including some he had never met but were as beautiful as goddesses, surrounded him.

Every night was filled with revelry, sheer joy.

"Scram!"

However, Yang Yan's self-control, beyond ordinary imagination, snapped him out of the illusion instantly.

With a furious roar, the illusion before him vanished into thin air.

Yang Yan exhaled, seeing himself back, and took another step towards Gongsun Ruyan.

Unexpectedly, at that moment, he fell into another illusion.

This scene made Yang Yan hesitate for a moment before quickly breaking through it again.

For Yang Yan, these illusions, enough to confuse a Titled Powerhouse, were crude tricks, insufficient to sway his will and mind.

After a few steps, Yang Yan finally reached Gongsun Ruyan's side.

He clearly saw that Gongsun Ruyan was about to fall.

He could almost imagine what would happen if he had discovered it any later.

Yet, Gongsun Ruyan still had a smile on her face, with a hint of... shyness?

Without a word, he scooped her up in a princess carry.

After some time, Yang Yan had already carried her off the stone path.

As they left, Gongsun Ruyan shivered and immediately returned to her senses.

However, when she opened her eyes, her face was flaming red, and she looked at Yang Yan with a spring-like gaze.

Yang Yan was dumbfounded.

But soon, he seemed to understand why she, with her power, ended up in the Illusion Realm.

A mischievous smile appeared on Yang Yan's face.

He slowly lowered his head as if to kiss Gongsun Ruyan.

Unexpectedly, Ruyan shyly closed her eyes, ready for the picking.

This made the joking Yang Yan unsure of what to do.

At that moment, a gust of Yin Wind suddenly swept around Yang Yan, carrying thick, tangible Demonic Qi within it.

This Demonic Qi... something's wrong!

Yang Yan's expression changed, quickly retreating with his body technique, instinctively avoiding the sudden Yin Wind.

This Demonic Qi was purer than the surrounding ones, more aggressive.

If caught off guard and touched, Yang Yan might have some trouble dealing with it.

Backing up, Yang Yan found himself again in front of the stone path.

It seemed... he was blocked once more.

That damned barrier again!

"King!"

The quick-witted Gongsun Ruyan finally came to her senses, realizing everything was real, and immediately blushed, calling out.

Thinking of what happened with Yang Yan in the Illusion Realm made her even shyer.

"Was it comfortable?"

Yang Yan lowered his head, smirked at her, while his speed surged, dodging the persistently pursuing Demonic Qi.

"I..."

Gongsun Ruyan was too embarrassed to speak, burying her head.

"Hey! This ghostly wind, I wasn't teasing you, stop chasing me!"

After half a minute, the Demonic Qi's speed didn't diminish; on the contrary, it seemed to adapt to Yang Yan's escape route, chasing even closer.

Gritting his teeth, Yang Yan's speed surged again, gaining some distance.

Ducking and weaving, he maneuvered skillfully.

Finally, at the edge of his Divine Thought, he seemed to touch a dark channel.

In the critical situation, Yang Yan barged in with Gongsun Ruyan.

As soon as they entered the channel, the Yin Wind stopped abruptly, no longer pursuing their steps.

The Demonic Qi seemed to fear this place, lingering at the entrance before finally dispersing as if it never existed.

Chapter 1004: Cave of Ten Thousand Demons

"King..."

At this moment, a faint voice as weak as a kitten came from Yang Yan's embrace.

"Come down, come down! Looks like my embrace isn't warm enough!"

Yang Yan intentionally made a joke to relieve the somewhat oppressive atmosphere.

In fact, being in this unknown passage, he dared not let his guard down at all.

Heaven knows what crises they'll face next.

Gongsun Ruyan regained her usual calmness after steadying herself, as if nothing had happened.

But as soon as Yang Yan said this, she immediately became anxious.

"King, it's not like that, it's not like that."

Yang Yan was visibly stunned for a moment.

This was not Gongsun Ruyan's usual style.

But the next moment he understood something, and teasingly asked:

"What's not like what?"

Meeting Yang Yan's mischievous gaze, Gongsun Ruyan, who wanted to say something, blushed deeply and lowered her head.

He used to always be teased by these three women, but today he's finally caught a chance, how could he let it go?

Yang Yan pushed his limits, suddenly reaching out to lift her chin.

Gongsun Ruyan reacted as if she was electrocuted, her whole body tensed, even shifting her gaze away, not daring to look Yang Yan in the eyes.

Seeing Gongsun Ruyan like this, Yang Yan felt a wave of joy in his heart.

However, at this point, he stopped there.

Otherwise, he would really be playing with fire in a moment.

"Forget it! Let's find Ao Tian first. I don't know how he is doing right now."

Yang Yan suddenly let go of her, speaking seriously.

The plot shifted so quickly that Gongsun Ruyan couldn't recover in time.

After a long silence, she finally nodded her head hurriedly.

However, once she lowered her head, she couldn't lift it again.

Looking at her, Yang Yan sighed silently in his heart.

Then, he naturally grabbed Gongsun Ruyan's wrist and walked forward.

Gongsun Ruyan silently followed his steps, though a happy smile graced her lips.

At this moment, Yang Yan wasn't concerned with these details, as his Divine Sense had already enveloped the passage.

Of course, it was still only about thirty meters, and he couldn't delve further.

Walking along, Yang Yan found this place seemed like an ordinary mountain path.

Except for the omnipresent Demonic Qi that largely isolated his Divine Thought.

He held Gongsun Ruyan's hand firmly, not wanting to let her leave his side for a moment.

The Demon Cave appeared very calm on the surface, but he always felt something was brewing beneath.

"King, there's not much I can see here."

Gongsun Ruyan, after walking with Yang Yan for about ten minutes, finally adjusted her emotions and blurted out suddenly.

Yang Yan glanced back at her and teased:

"With your head down like that, how far do you think you can see?"

Gongsun Ruyan opened her mouth but eventually swallowed her words.

This guy clearly knew she was referring to the Divine Sense, yet purposefully said otherwise. Really mischievous!

Just then, Yang Yan suddenly stopped walking.

Gongsun Ruyan looked up, suddenly noticing two floating fireballs a few meters ahead.

"King, up ahead..."

Before Gongsun Ruyan could finish, Yang Yan said solemnly:

"I know. Be careful in a moment!"

Yang Yan said, leading Gongsun Ruyan forward.

This seemed like a small transit area, with both sides widening considerably.

In front were two flamboyant red spheres, with crimson flames burning fiercely on their surfaces.

Yang Yan remained guarded internally, only realizing up close that they were indeed used for illumination.

They conveniently illuminated the three carved characters above—

Cave of Ten Thousand Demons.

Beneath the carved characters, a copper-rusted ancient door blocked their path.

Yang Yan sniffed and then snorted coldly, kicking at it.

Boom!

A dull thud, but the door didn't budge an inch.

Yang Yan's expression darkened, feeling his leg went numb from the impact.

He turned to Gongsun Ruyan, shaking his head:

"Can't open it."

"King, let me try."

Gongsun Ruyan, speaking, had already curiously placed her hand on the red sphere.

In a flash, Gongsun Ruyan disappeared into thin air.

Yang Yan suddenly felt the urge to slap himself.

In such an environment, how could he let Gongsun Ruyan take risks so casually?

Without thinking, he touched the red sphere directly.

In a daze, the world spun.

When he came to, the scene before him had completely changed.

He appeared in an absolutely sealed space.

About the size of a soccer field, it was oppressively stifling, making it hard to breathe.

"Did I really end up in some Cave of Ten Thousand Demons?"

Yang Yan outwardly complained, clutching his Star Night, fully prepared.

But aside from a nearby huge Blood Pool with blood blooms rolling, there was nothing else in sight.

Something was amiss!

Even though Yang Yan's Divine Thought couldn't penetrate the Blood Pool, he felt something terrifying was concealed beneath.

He even speculated that the greatest secret of this Demon Cave was hidden within the Blood Pool.

Perhaps at any moment, countless demons would pour out.

Soon, Yang Yan found out he was indeed correct.

Even more terrifying, these beings neither human nor ghost, all possessed Titled strength.

His eyes grew increasingly somber.

"Ruyan..."

Yang Yan instinctively called out.

At this moment, he was most concerned about Gongsun Ruyan's safety.

Titled Powerhouses!

And in such large numbers.

Even Yang Yan felt a shiver down his spine.

He knew Gongsun Ruyan's strength.

Even if she unsealed, there was no way Gongsun Ruyan could handle so many demons at once!

With this thought, Yang Yan rushed, pulling Star Night from the Void and charging in directly.

"Boom!"

A Bone Saber cleaving down was directly broken by Star Night, and the demon with two black horns in front of Yang Yan became a ghost under his sword.

"Boom!"

Immediately, a burly demon was split in two by the radiant Star Night.

Gaining success in succession, Yang Yan was somewhat surprised.

It seemed not as difficult as imagined?

While pondering, two imposing demons already approached from both sides.

Yang Yan's mouth curled into a cold smile, feet fiercely stomping the ground, leaping high into the air.

At this moment, Yang Yan seemed to understand somewhat.

These demons appearing seemingly possessed the strength of Titled Powerhouses, but were truly only for show!

These demons, strictly speaking, while meeting the strength standard, fell short in every other aspect.

Importantly, they seemed unaccustomed to their current bodies, their movements very uncoordinated, let alone swift.

Of course, most crucially, these seemingly terrifying beings were devoid of intelligence!

Chapter 1005: Blood Pool? My Reward?

Yang Yan's previously tense heart finally settled.

In this case, with Gongsun Ruyan's strength, handling it shouldn't be a problem.

Just as Yang Yan secretly let out a sigh of relief, a flock of birds burning with blood-red flames suddenly flew over the sky.

They looked much like vultures, except they were completely bald.

But the blood-red flames burning on them were anything but simple.

Yang Yan suddenly grinned and weighed the Star Night in his hand:

"Today, I'll let you broaden your horizons, so you can die with your eyes open!"

As his words fell, a powerful aura emanated from Yang Yan's body.

It was overwhelming, directly covering this small world.

The continuously emerging Demons were immediately suppressed, and their speed dropped.

However, the flock of flaming blood birds were unaffected because of Yang Yan's deliberate intention.

"Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh..."

Hundreds of blood-red firebirds flapped their wings even faster, rushing toward Yang Yan.

Floating in the air, Yang Yan saw this and couldn't help but have the corners of his mouth lift, softly speaking a few words:

"A flash of cold light, a myriad of beams!"

As his words fell, a sheet of white cold light suddenly brightened.

Initially, the white blade was just a thin line, seemingly harmless to humans and animals.

Finally, all the Demons were shocked to find that their field of vision was filled with white light.

The next moment, a wave of sharp pain swept over.

Bang, bang, bang!

Hundreds of massive blood-red firebird carcasses began to fall and quickly burned out.

The Demons on the ground, with low intelligence, had no idea what was happening, only the death of their companions aroused their vicious nature.

In an instant, all the Demons emitted those terrifying roars, rushing toward Yang Yan recklessly.

After dealing with those blood-red firebirds with one strike, Yang Yan suddenly noticed that the Demons below seemed to have increased their speed, and their strength visibly increased as well.

Could the burning blood strengthen their power?

Yang Yan glared with tiger eyes, immediately understanding the key.

Doesn't that mean, the later they come out from the Blood Pool, the more troublesome they are!

Yang Yan's gaze fell on the Demons climbing out from the Blood Pool behind.

Indeed!

At this moment, a Demon with two horns on its head and long, sharp fingernails crawled out just right.

Its body was covered in scales, incredibly resembling the Sand King that Yang Yan had seen?

Of course, Yang Yan didn't know, this form of Demon had its own name among the Demon Race—

Sand Demon Race.

Then I'll just block the door and kill you all!

Yang Yan thought of a not-so-viable plan.

As he thought, he acted.

He dove down, plunging headfirst into the Demon pile below.

In a short time, these low-intelligence Demons had grown to over a thousand, and they were still increasing.

Even Yang Yan found it quite troublesome to handle.

"Woo woo..."

"Woo woo..."

"Woo woo..."

The blood continuously spilling and the screams of companions deeply stimulated these Demons, all starting to shriek.

"Bring something fresh."

Looking around at the Demon army killed in circles and then fearlessly pressing forward again, Yang Yan couldn't help but grin and fiercely plunge the Star Night into the ground.

This move, Yang Yan had never used before.

Because, to him, it was almost useless.

However, today, dealing with these attackers whose power rivals that of a Titled Powerhouse but with slightly higher defense than a regular powerhouse, it finally came in handy.

When Yang Yan poured in one-tenth of his energy, the originally restless Star Night radiated brilliantly.

Bang, bang, bang!

Splendid blue cold light started to erupt like volcanic eruptions, transforming into bolts of lightning darting around chaotically, rapidly filling the entire space.

On a normal day, facing such powerful individuals, even those above S-level from Hidden World people, such an attack might not have good results.

Yet it was instantly effective against these specialized Titled Powerhouses.

From the center out, the blue cold light, wherever it passed, chopped all the Demons rushing toward Yang Yan like slicing wheat.

Almost in the blink of an eye, over a thousand Demons had all fallen, then burned fiercely from the incision, turning to ash in an instant.

When the blue light faded, the only survivor in front of Yang Yan was the enormous Sand Demon.

At this moment, the Sand Demon had no reaction, not even its two black eyes turning.

Its whole body was standing stiffly facing Yang Yan, motionless.

"Plop—plop—plop..."

The sound of cracking and shedding rang out.

Then, under Yang Yan's stunned gaze, pieces started to fall from the Sand Demon.

The initial speed was slow, one piece after another, finally falling off in large areas.

At last, almost in an instant, the Sand Demon had become a pile of flesh.

Boom!

Flames rose, and the flesh of the desert burned out along with them.

Yang Yan then smiled, raising the Star Night in his hand and looking around, murmuring:

"Thanks, mate!"

The Star Night seemed to have sensed Yang Yan's feelings, continuously trembling in his hand, as if seeking credit.

"You're quite skilled."

At this moment, a somewhat elderly voice suddenly came from the Void.

"Who?"

Yang Yan's heart skipped a beat, and he called out instinctively.

Someone else was here?

He hadn't noticed at all?

How could that be!

"Heh—young lad, why are you afraid? I sensed fear in you."

The voice returned with a chuckle.

"Who are you?"

Yang Yan squinted his eyes, a mysterious cold light circulating in them.

Yang Yan wasn't accustomed to such conversations.

With someone clearly here, and yet he couldn't figure out where they were?

Yang Yan's usual approach to dealing with such unfamiliar matters was to directly change them into familiar ones!

"You're definitely not a Demon! You don't even have Demonic Qi inside, although there are traces of magic, but they are very low-level."

"Moreover, it seems you guy have had your body purified too!"

The person hidden in the shadows spoke on their own.

"Coward hiding your head, I don't believe you won't show yourself!"

Yang Yan held up Star Night, suddenly shouted, and fiercely slashed a cold light toward the immense Blood Pool.

To the Demons, this Blood Pool was definitely like a Grotto Heaven Blessed Land.

He didn't believe the person hiding in the shadows wouldn't care.

Sure enough, the voice became somewhat urgent:

"Young lad, this is your reward, do you really want to destroy it yourself?"

"My reward?"

Yang Yan originally just wanted to blackmail for a bit, now hearing this very timely, he withdrew his strength, stood beside the Blood Pool, and looked up at the seemingly nonexistent sky.

"The Blood Pool can only recover every three hundred years, so the Trial Demon Cave opens only every three hundred years."

"And the Trial Demon Cave has now been unopened for countless ages, do you know how terrifying the energy accumulated in the Blood Pool is?"

Chapter 1006: If I Wanted, I Would Be My Own Emperor and Rule the World

Yang Yan looked at the calm Blood Pool and asked disdainfully:

"How terrifying?"

To him, no matter how terrifying, they were still demons, meaningless.

"Those demons just now were merely automatically spawned by the Blood Pool, logically, I should personally control them."

The voice explained.

"So what?"

Yang Yan asked irritably.

The hidden person seemed amused by Yang Yan's words.

For a moment, the entire enclosed space was filled with his laughter.

"Kid, I can tell your current power level, mid-stage Emperor Realm, already at the sixth stage!"

"Just one step away from reaching high-stage! But to me, that's nothing!"

"I can manipulate this Blood Pool to fabricate a Pseudo-God Realm powerhouse, do you believe me?"

Yang Yan smiled casually and lightly uttered two words:

"I believe."

The voice laughed discontentedly:

"But I think you still don't believe! If it weren't for the fact that once this thing is created, it must be shattered to dissipate, I would definitely let you witness it, kid."

As for the Pseudo-God Realm stuff, Yang Yan didn't care at all.

He was just calculating in his heart what purpose this guy had for hiding and chatting about pointless things with him?

"Just speak directly if you have anything to say, I'm in a hurry."

Yang Yan asked coldly.

The other party countered with a question instead:

"Do you know why the Ancient Demon Race fell to its current state?"

Yang Yan puckered his mouth:

"Wasn't it wiped out by Emperor Yan and Emperor Huang leading their people?"

Unexpectedly, Yang Yan's statement provoked the other into angry fury.

He actually exploded into curses:

"Nonsense! Nonsense!"

Yang Yan seemed to feel like the other was right in front of him, spitting mouthfuls of saliva.

"You're infuriating me! I'm not going to waste breath with you, kid, this is the Trial Demon Cave!"

Yang Yan's lips curled into a sly victorious smile:

"Why didn't you just get to the point sooner?"

Zi Xu Old Demon explained:

"This is the Demon Race's top-tier Demon Cave, burying one hundred Demon Kings, seventeen Demon Emperors! Three Demon Emperors!"

"What Yan and Huang are you talking about? Those two human supremes? Ridiculous! Truly ridiculous!"

"Do you know that every Demon Emperor has Divine Realm strength?"

"Every Demon Emperor is Half-Step Divine Realm! All have the hope to step into Divine Realm!"

Now it was Yang Yan's turn to feel incredulous.

"How is that possible?"

Yang Yan didn't want to let the other feel proud, intentionally showing disdain:

"If that's the case, the Demon Race would've unified the whole world long ago?"

Zi Xu Old Demon suddenly burst into laughter:

"Haha! You ignorant kid, let me truthfully tell you!"

"All masters above Half-Step Divine Realm can only stay in this small space for a maximum of three months!"

"After three months, they will be expelled, directly to the outer realms!"

"Want to return after that? Sure, let the outer realm Demon King bring back the corpse!!!"

Yang Yan furrowed his brows, and his heart sank:

"Old man, I'm not part of your Demon Race, you'd better lower your voice!"

Though Yang Yan received explosive news, he still acted nonchalant on the surface.

Zi Xu Old Demon seemed to compromise, after a silence, he said:

"I don't know why you avoided the first stage's reward?"

"This Bone-penetrating Demon Wind contains pure energy that can transform your body, making you a qualified Demon Race... no, a superior Demon Race!"

Yang Yan grinned:

"I don't want to become something that's neither human nor ghost."

His reply once again enraged Zi Xu Old Demon, who immediately let out weird cries.

At that moment, Yang Yan suddenly turned around, tightening his grip on Star Night.

The corners of his mouth curved slightly, and an evil smile appeared.

"Zi Xu Old Demon, you finally decided to show yourself."

In front of Yang Yan stood a very ordinary old man.

Besides having deeply dense wrinkles making him look very elderly, there was almost no other anomaly.

But when the old man raised his head, Yang Yan was shocked.

Two deeply sunken black eye sockets, a huge scar from the neck slanting all the way to the edge of his forehead.

He smiled brightly at Yang Yan, slowly saying:

"Originally, the kid who came in had pretty good talent, but wasn't as good as you, so he only passed two stages."

"I didn't let him into the final stage. The facts prove my judgment was correct."

"The previous kid?"

Yang Yan's pupils imperceptibly shrunk:

"Are you talking about Ao Tian? How is he? And, the woman who entered together with me, how is she?"

Zi Xu Old Demon frowned slightly:

"Ao Tian? I don't know his name. However, I did hear the name frequently mentioned by him, someone called Moonlight, which should be you, right?"

The old man finished speaking, looking at Yang Yan with a half-smile.

"How is he?"

Yang Yan's gaze turned cold, and his tone became rude.

"He's fine, I have already sent him out."

Zi Xu Old Demon didn't mind, lightly chuckling:

"Regarding that woman, let me check, oh...hmm, she's struggling at the tenth Blood Pool!"

While speaking, he waved his right hand, and a virtual scene unfolded above Yang Yan's head.

It showed Gongsun Ruyan fiercely battling in front of a Blood Pool.

It was evident she was almost at the point of exhaustion.

"So, have you thought it through?"

Zi Xu Old Demon suddenly asked.

"Thought what? Send her out!"

Yang Yan asked gravely.

Unexpectedly, Zi Xu Old Demon thought nothing of it and directly nodded:

"Fine!"

Without any further actions visible, Gongsun Ruyan was immediately expelled, her figure vanishing from the illusion.

"She has already reunited with your friends outside."

Zi Xu Old Demon, with a wave of his hand, dispelled the illusion, speaking to Yang Yan with a smile:

"Now, we should talk about your matters."

Yang Yan raised an eyebrow, and spoke gravely:

"What matters involve me?"

"Originally, there was one final stage in this Demon Cave, but I don't think it's necessary."

"The final stage's reward is to become the owner of this Demon Cave and obtain...this!"

This was an entirely black, neither metal nor wood Token, engraved with the words Demon Emperor.

"Demon Emperor...humph! I don't need it. If I want, I will become my own emperor and rule the world."

Yang Yan spoke disdainfully.

"You!"

Zi Xu Old Demon was momentarily aghast, looking at him incredulously.

He had been waiting in the Trial Demon Cave for countless ages, and finally found the perfect candidate in his eyes.

Only to be told by the person that they had no interest in his offer, possessing even greater ambitions!

It's easy to imagine Zi Xu Old Demon's current feelings.

"This is Pure Demon Yin Wind! You fool!"

Zi Xu Old Demon said disdainfully while his right hand turned into a palm, pulling the Yin Wind Yang Yan encountered in the first stage towards himself.

Chapter 1007: Kid, Put It Down Now

Yang Yan watched him warily, clutching Star Night tightly in his hand.

He was ready to attack at any moment.

As for the consequences, he would take it one step at a time!

After all, he had realized that this old man had become somewhat deranged from his long-term "imprisonment".

Of course, a demon is a demon, so the reaction of this old demon in front of him was understandable.

"Absorb the Yin Wind, I will assist you in forging your body!"

Zi Xu Old Demon stared at Yang Yan domineeringly, his tone like a command.

"No way!"

Yang Yan glared with glaring eyes, still refusing, leaving no room for negotiation:

"I've never been forced to do anything I didn't want to in my life, try me now, will you?"

Yang Yan's words were bold and defiant, but he truly had no idea.

He couldn't ascertain the strength of this old man who called himself Zi Xu Old Demon.

Unexpectedly, after hearing Yang Yan's words, Zi Xu Old Demon was initially stunned, then burst into a hearty laugh.

"Fine, fine! I won't force you! But you will agree! Kid, stay with me!"

Zi Xu Old Demon said, and in an instant, he vanished from Yang Yan's sight, leaving no trace.

By the time Yang Yan came to his senses, it was too late.

He let out a furious roar, swung his sword at the stones around the Blood Pool, and shouted angrily:

"Old Demon, do you want me to stay here with you till old age?"

After a while without a response, Yang Yan pointed Star Night at the Blood Pool threateningly:

"Old Demon, if you don't let me out, I'll smash this thing!"

This time the opponent replied, but with a tone full of amusement:

"Go ahead, smash it! There are ten of these in the Demon Cave!"

Upon hearing this, Yang Yan felt as if all his strength had been drained in an instant.

He plopped down on the ground, cursing under his breath.

Zi Xu Old Demon had actually been there all along.

Listening to Yang Yan's continuous cursing without profanity, he was clearly infuriated.

Freely venting in a space as large as a football field, Yang Yan finally calmed down.

He then realized he couldn't actually destroy the space.

Helplessly, Yang Yan had to focus on the Blood Pool.

Yang Yan's eyes fixed on the Blood Pool whirled around for an unknown length of time.

While the old demon hid in a corner, observing Yang Yan's actions as if watching a play.

Suddenly, Yang Yan stood tall and then leaped.

The old demon thought Yang Yan had changed his mind and shouted out in panic:

"Kid! You're not a Demon Body yet! Going down will corrupt you into nothingness!"

Unfortunately, he was still a step too late, and after a sigh, he directly followed Yang Yan into the Blood Pool.

But soon he found out that it wasn't as he imagined.

It turned out a white energy shield had already appeared around Yang Yan, enveloping him tightly within.

The degree of corrosion from the surrounding blood was truly terrifying; upon contact, even the white energy shield was engulfed considerably.

However, with Yang Yan's continual power infusion, the corrosion rate ultimately couldn't keep up with the repair rate, leaving him unharmed.

"Kid, what are you doing?"

Zi Xu Old Demon, seeing Yang Yan was fine, finally breathed a sigh of relief and couldn't help but ask out of curiosity.

"Nothing much! Just want to see with my own eyes what's down there?"

After speaking, Yang Yan ignored the old demon and plunged downward forcefully.

No one knew how deep this Blood Pool was, but every inch Yang Yan dived deeper, the pressure increased substantially.

Luckily, the corrosion intensity didn't change.

With the energy shield distorted, Yang Yan finally reached the deepest point.

Zi Xu Old Demon leisurely followed behind, sticking with him to the very bottom.

When he discovered what Yang Yan intended to do, Zi Xu Old Demon immediately widened his eyes and hurriedly tried to stop him:

"Stop, kid! That's the Demon Lord's Sacred Artifact!"

However, when Yang Yan saw his target right in front of him, he couldn't hold back.

He swiftly dug out the hexagonal Blood Crystal embedded at the bottom with a quick swipe, grabbed it, and rapidly floated upward.

The speed of ascending was naturally much faster.

In no time, he was back on solid ground, unharmed.

"Kid, put it down quickly!"

Zi Xu Old Demon followed out angrily.

Then, without saying a word, he swung a Bone Saber towards Yang Yan's head.

However, this saber wasn't Zi Xu Old Demon's original weapon.

Having spent countless years here, his weapon had long turned to dust under the demonic qi's corrosion.

This Bone Saber was clearly just a weapon Zi Xu Old Demon casually formed in the Blood Pool.

Yang Yan glanced back and, with a single slash, split the old demon's saber in two.

"Kid, put it down! You don't have the qualification to take it yet!"

The old demon's eyes began turning blood red.

Yang Yan toyed with the burning hexagonal Blood Crystal in his hand for a moment, chuckling:

"Isn't it just a Demon Emperor's Blood Crystal? Out of ten Blood Pools, there are surely at least three, right? What's wrong with taking one?"

Zi Xu Old Demon almost passed out from anger but restrained his fury and said:

"If you're willing to undergo Yin Wind transformation and absorb the demon energy of this Blood Pool, I'll let you take it!"

"Furthermore, wherever you go, you'll be our supreme Demon Emperor!"

Zi Xu Old Demon once again displayed that exquisite token, radiating a substance-like arrogance and majesty that was hard to withstand.

Yang Yan, however, remained unmoved, shrugged indifferently, and replied:

"I'm not interested, having this is enough for me."

Yang Yan shook the Demon Emperor Blood Crystal in his hand triumphantly.

A Divine Realm master's condensed energy source, still so well-preserved, not a single bit wasted, Yang Yan treasured it greatly.

"Dream on, human brat!"

Upon hearing Yang Yan speak, Zi Xu Old Demon finally stopped holding back.

His clothes started expanding rapidly, until they were directly torn apart by his increasingly large body!

"Creak... Squeak..."

The sound of bones grinding together sent shivers down one's spine.

At the same time, Zi Xu Old Demon's aura continuously surged.

Initial Tier General Realm, Middle Tier, High Tier, Peak!

Initial Tier Emperor Realm, Middle Tier, High Tier...

"High Tier Emperor Realm."

Yang Yan didn't know whether to feel fortunate or otherwise, lightly sighed.

He was just one step away from the High Tier Emperor Realm himself.

Plus, given his battle prowess, he still had a fighting chance.

"If the Demon Race hadn't been defeated, and the Demon Emperors hadn't set final orders for the Demon Cave, where my presence couldn't exceed the challenger's realm by more than one level, you'd be unqualified to fight me!"

Yang Yan frowned and suspiciously asked:

"When you appear?"

The old demon sneered and nodded:

"Only those who reach the third level can meet me!"

"As for the others, they're either dead or insane."

"Letting your two friends go was merely an exception!"

Chapter 1008: Today I'll Smash Your Face

Yang Yan suddenly laughed.

"So you are the test of the third stage? In that case, I have nothing to fear."

As soon as he finished speaking, Star Night was already in his hand, and his figure flickered, charging towards Zi Xu Old Demon like lightning.

This was a collision between a mid-stage Emperor Realm and a high-stage Emperor Realm!

Fully unsealed, Yang Yan was already standing at the pinnacle of the world.

In fact, even he didn't know where his limits truly lay.

A battle like this, in the Otherworld, with nothing to worry about, made him feel extremely exhilarated.

This time, Yang Yan decided to fight to his heart's content!

Currently, Zi Xu Old Demon had grown into a gigantic demon from the Demon Race, standing four meters tall.

At this moment, he no longer resembled a human, only the face of a monster remained.

A face so blurry it was almost indistinguishable, with a mouth at the center opening and closing in furious roars:

"You'll regret this! You will definitely regret this!"

His two legs had turned into four, but the front two were supposed to be arms, which had transformed into sharp bladed limbs.

"Slash!"

Zi Xu Old Demon slashed with one blade, and Yang Yan swiftly retreated.

If that slash hit, it would be normal for his body to be cut in half.

"So your true form is this ugly? If becoming demonic makes one this ugly, I wouldn't want Divine Realm powers even if you gave them to me!"

Yang Yan mocked.

Simultaneously, he lightly tapped his feet in mid-air, as a faint blue light began to flow continuously over Star Night.

Amidst the darkness, it appeared even more mysterious and eerie.

"Rise!"

With a loud shout from Yang Yan, the stone slabs on the ground shockingly began to lift off rapidly.

These stone slabs seemed to be drawn by an invisible force, all converging at once, hurling fiercely toward the massive body of Zi Xu Old Demon.

The material of these slabs was extraordinary, and Yang Yan had long noticed their peculiarities.

At this moment, with Zi Xu Old Demon's enormous body, in a confined space, they were the perfect counter against him, like a stroke of genius.

"Hiss!"

"Hiss!"

In his anger, Zi Xu Old Demon emitted an insect-like hiss, sounding particularly chilling.

Boom!

Boom!

Boom...

One by one, the stone slabs exploded, being sliced and shattered by Zi Xu Old Demon's wielded bladed limbs, or smashed to pieces.

In an instant, countless shattered stones turned into flying projectiles brimming with force, rebounding towards Yang Yan.

These stones, after being propelled by Yang Yan's power toward Zi Xu, were bounced back by Zi Xu's force.

Under such high pressure, there were still so many fragments not entirely crushed.

With the combined force of both Yang Yan and Zi Xu, the destructive power reached an immensely terrifying level!

Even Yang Yan dared not be the slightest bit careless.

He tightened his nerves, gripping Star Night, quickly drawing a circle in front of him, shouting angrily:

"Break!"

The blue light instantly bloomed around Yang Yan's body.

A huge blue light shield suddenly appeared, enveloping him tightly.

Countless fragments began to rain down on Yang Yan like raindrops.

Boom! Boom! Boom...

It felt like sitting in a car when suddenly fist-sized hail began pouring from the sky, leaving one worried the windshield might shatter at any moment.

However, Yang Yan had full confidence in the barrier he maintained.

After a storm, all the stone fragments reflecting back from Zi Xu Old Demon crashed into the barrier, exploding apart one after another, finally turning into powder and dissipating into the air.

Everything returned to silence, time seemed to momentarily pause.

In an instant, an inexplicable oppression spread, with a suffocating sense.

Facing Yang Yan, Zi Xu Old Demon's enormous body was riddled with wounds, a sight too dreadful to witness.

Even with his powers, it was impossible to completely fend off such a frightful attack.

His injuries were far more severe than Yang Yan's!

Yang Yan only suffered from energy depletion, not truly significant harm.

As time ticked away, both were frantically restoring energy in this strange standoff.

Comparatively, Zi Xu Old Demon should be the most aggrieved.

Because not only could he not restore his own power, but he also had to expend more to quickly heal his wounds.

At this moment, a vague panic set in his heart.

Knowing that even with the limitations of the Demon Cave's Rule, he possessed high-stage Emperor Realm strength.

And it was the last step of the Emperor Realm, the ninth level!

Whereas Yang Yan, at mid-stage Emperor Realm, was only at the sixth level.

Yet he could fight him to a draw!

More precisely, after a fierce contest, while he was seriously injured, Yang Yan was relatively unharmed!

Such a monster?!

Although shocked, after the panic, Zi Xu Old Demon regained his confidence.

Everywhere here was filled with Demonic Qi, and he could restore himself by absorbing it at will, only needing some time.

In contrast, for Yang Yan to recover, he could only rely on himself, consuming considerable energy.

With this disparity, he was confident he could remain undefeated.

With this determination, he looked at Yang Yan as if eyeing prey.

The gap in their realms also predestined a vast difference in their energy quality and reserves.

Though Zi Xu Old Demon didn't know why Yang Yan's energy purity was more terrifying than his own.

But it didn't matter, this was his home ground!

To use a soccer analogy, this wasn't the national team, it was Barca.

Zi Xu Old Demon, unwilling to give Yang Yan more time to recover, soon made a surprise attack.

His two massive bladed limbs sealed off Yang Yan's retreat from both sides.

With the sudden assault, Yang Yan missed the chance for an instant escape.

"Zi Xu Old Demon, today I'm determined to smash your face to vent my anger!"

Under such circumstances, Yang Yan surprisingly maintained a smile, teasing himself with a playful tone, startling Zi Xu Old Demon.

With another roar, the two bladed limbs closed in even faster!

Boom!

That was the sound of Zi Xu Old Demon's two bladed limbs striking together fiercely.

At the crucial moment, Yang Yan pulled himself up, stepping onto the closed blades of Zi Xu Old Demon.

The next second!

With a step up, he propelled himself into the air, gripping the deep blue Star Night in both hands, looking like a god of death from hell in Zi Xu Old Demon's terrified eyes of disbelief!

Meanwhile, Zi Xu's two bladed limbs seemed to be kicked apart by Yang Yan's powerful step.

After a violent clash, the two bladed limbs abruptly separated.

The self-inflicted recoil left Zi Xu Old Demon powerless to face Yang Yan's attack.

He staggered back three steps!

Still shaken, Zi Xu Old Demon barely steadied himself when he suddenly looked up.

The next moment, his pupils suddenly shrunk.

Yang Yan had already transformed into a bolt of lightning, striking directly above Zi Xu Old Demon's head.

Boom!

The radiant Star Night cleaved down, aiming straight for the distorted human face that looked out of place on the gigantic body.

The cold and ruthless Star Night couldn't understand the enemy's fear and despair.

Unhindered, it sliced fiercely into the face that made it feel nauseated.

Chapter 1009: Passing the Test, Leaving the Demon Cave

"Boom!!!"

At the moment this slash came down, the massive body of Zi Xu Old Demon exploded into pieces.

Yang Yan, panting heavily, stuck Star Night into the ground to support his nearly exhausted body.

The previous strike had drained all his energy.

Moreover, he had also borrowed Zi Xu's power at a critical moment.

But none of that mattered anymore.

"You're not dead?"

Yang Yan looked at the suddenly reappearing Zi Xu Old Demon and raised an eyebrow, his hand on Star Night ready to strike at any moment.

Zi Xu's face darkened as he looked at Yang Yan.

"I'm not a living thing, why talk about dying?"

Yang Yan suddenly chuckled and put away Star Night:

"What, finally came to your senses and decided not to show me that ugly mug anymore?"

As he spoke, Yang Yan boldly walked to the restored Zi Xu Old Demon, patted his shoulder familiarly, and said:

"Old man Zi Xu, I've passed all three trials. You have no reason to stop me, right?"

Zi Xu Old Demon raised an eyebrow, indignantly replying:

"Hmph! If it weren't for the rules..."

He stopped mid-sentence, slowly looking up at Yang Yan with an incredulous expression:

"So... you knew all along?"

Yang Yan grinned slyly and replied:

"You've been harping on about the rules yourself, it'd be hard not to know!"

He had long suspected that this Zi Xu Old Demon was following the rules of the Demon Cave.

Even if he skipped from the third trial to see him in the second, it wasn't against the rules.

Thus, having just defeated him, he considered the third trial completed.

Regardless, this guy couldn't and wouldn't continue to stop him.

"You're very clever."

Zi Xu Old Demon looked at Yang Yan and suddenly smiled with satisfaction.

The next moment, a faint glow appeared in his aged hand.

Squinting, Yang Yan realized it was the Demon Emperor Token.

"This is the reward for the third trial. Do you want it?"

Zi Xu Old Demon laughed eerily:

"Once this token is issued, none dares to disobey! As long as you hold the Demon Emperor Token, the entire Demon Race, regardless of rank, will bow to you!"

However, Yang Yan merely glanced at the Demon Emperor Token, then stuffed his hands in his pockets, eyes showing disdain.

"I don't need that."

Yang Yan said flatly:

"Besides, making the Demon Race bow? Sorry, I prefer them trembling at my feet!"

After saying that, Yang Yan calmly looked at the Zi Xu Old Demon across from him.

Sure enough, after a brief stupor, Zi Xu Old Demon was so enraged he seemed fit to burst, his face contorting.

He almost roared:

"Even if you've passed the third trial, I won't give it to you! Get out! The farther, the better!"

Yang Yan calmly asked:

"Where are my two friends?"

Zi Xu Old Demon suddenly burst into laughter:

"That brat named Ao Tian, he's accepted the Yin Wind's transformation and Blood Pool's energy! His strength now rivals yours!"

Bang!

Fuelled by rage, Yang Yan shouted and his right fist turned into a lightning strike, smashing directly into Zi Xu Old Demon.

Unprepared, Zi Xu Old Demon was blown apart, shattering into countless shadowy fragments that vanished.

In the vast space, only Yang Yan was left standing.

Soon, Zi Xu Old Demon's voice reappeared, trembling slightly:

"What... what are you doing?"

Yang Yan ignored him, glanced back at the Blood Pool, as if an idea struck him.

Bending his right fingers, he aimed at the Blood Pool.

Rumble—

The Blood Pool instantly boiled, waves surging.

A small vortex formed on the surface of the pool.

Soon, the Demon Energy Essence from within the pool was extracted by Yang Yan, with blood balls rich in pure demonic qi floating in the air.

Yang Yan waved his hand, accepting them all with a smile.

At this time, the Blood Pool visibly halved in volume, and its color seemed to dim.

Though Zi Xu Old Demon couldn't comprehend Yang Yan's actions, he couldn't approach to stop him, not even a word of protest.

When Yang Yan finished, he cooperatively waved his hand.

A hole suddenly appeared above Yang Yan's head.

"Old man Zi Xu, we'll meet again next time."

Pleased with his spoils, Yang Yan waved cheerfully at Zi Xu Old Demon.

The next moment, he shot upward directly.

After passing through the hole, Yang Yan reappeared outside the mountain.

Except now, he was at the peak.

Looking down, Yang Yan saw a group of people at the base of the mountain.

Ao Tian, Gongsun Ruyan, they were all there.

Elated, Yang Yan moved with extreme swiftness, arriving beside them almost immediately.

"Yang Yan, you're finally out!"

Initially ready to strike, Ao Tian and others stopped their attack upon seeing it was Yang Yan, complaining slightly.

"My lord!"

Gongsun Ruyan, Zhuge Wushuang, and Fu Changjian immediately greeted him respectfully.

Only Sass looked worriedly at Yang Yan, silently pondering something.

"How long was I in there?"

Hearing the slight complaint in Ao Tian's tone, Yang Yan rolled his eyes, replying irritably.

He had moved as quickly as possible, yet Ao Tian still nagged.

"Not long? Your men went in and out in two days. You've been in there four days, twice as long as them!"

Ao Tian pointed at Gongsun Ruyan, smirking coldly.

Four days?

Yang Yan was startled, instinctively turning to the three swordsmen, hoping for confirmation.

After all, Ao Tian wasn't always reliable; his words couldn't be taken at face value.

From his own sense, he hadn't been inside for more than three days.

But how could Ao Tian say he stayed four days?

However, as his gaze fell on the three swordsmen, they nodded in unison.

Yang Yan gave a helpless smile, glancing back at the stone mountain, suspiciously saying:

"This Demon Cave... there's something strange about it."

"Like you needed to say that."

Ao Tian cracked his neck, smirking dismissively:

"Of course! These past days I've rusted stiff waiting. Weren't we supposed to collect Blood Pills and activate the array to save people? What are we waiting for, let's go already!"

"Go? No rush!"

Yang Yan suddenly smiled, lightly slapping Ao Tian.

Even if he was relaxed, Ao Tian maintained a basic level of alertness.

Besides, Yang Yan's speed wasn't quick, as if allowing him time to react.

Yet, the strike carried considerable force.

Yang Yan used a good half of his strength.

Boom!

As Ao Tian clashed with Yang Yan's palm, his expression changed drastically, furiously shouting:

"Moonlight, what madness are you up to?!"

In the next instant, Fu Changjian and the other two swiftly stepped in front of Yang Yan.

They all drew their swords in unison, glaring at Ao Tian, ready to strike at any moment.

Chapter 1010: Kill

Ao Tian, seeing this scene, was once again dumbfounded. He took a step back, wearing a bewildered smile, and said:

"Hey, what are you all doing? Don't you recognize me?"

Yang Yan felt the energy exploding from Ao Tian and shook his head, signaling the Three Swords to hold their positions.

At this moment, Sass suddenly pointed at Yang Yan and said:

"Moonlight Emperor, I carefully checked when he came out of the Demon Cave, and there was no sign of Demonic Qi."

"But you, just judging by appearances, I really can't be sure!"

By the end, Sass's face was full of conflict.

On one hand, he needed Yang Yan to rescue the trapped members of the Dusk Race.

On the other hand, he feared Yang Yan had been corrupted by Demonic Qi, losing his mind and becoming a demon.

Admittedly, the Dusk Race and the Demon Race are sworn enemies until death; by then, if they fail to save the people, they might end up being wiped out instead.

"Nonsense! How could I, a dignified Four Emperors Moonlight, possibly be corrupted by Demonic Qi and fall into the Demon Dao?!"

Yang Yan simply stood there quietly, his domineering gaze overpowering Sass, leaving him gasping for air.

"Enough."

Ao Tian's eyes sharpened, and his aura suddenly burst forth, helping to counterbalance Yang Yan's oppression on Sass.

With a pale face, Sass swayed slightly before barely steadying himself.

Despite this, he still excitedly clasped his hands together, muttering under his breath.

He seemed to be celebrating the blessing for his Dusk Race, that Yang Yan hadn't fallen into the Demon Dao.

"Moonlight, if you don't explain why you just struck me, I won't let this go."

Ao Tian insisted, glaring at Yang Yan, speaking angrily.

When had the Ice Emperor, Ao Tian, ever been ambushed and unable to retaliate?

But on reflection, it made sense.

In terms of each other's strengths, even with his own fortuitous encounters, he still fell slightly short compared to Yang Yan.

Clearly, seeing through Ice Emperor Ao Tian's thoughts, Yang Yan moved forward and jovially slung an arm around his shoulder, laughing:

"Aiya! Accidentally stumbled into this Cave of Ten Thousand Demons, only to find it was just a trial."

"Luck wasn't bad; successfully passed three stages, feeling my strength indeed increased significantly, just wanted to test it out!"

"Didn't expect your luck was also good, your strength increased quite a bit too."

Ao Tian nonchalantly huffed twice:

"If you want to ambush me, you probably need to train a few... "

He originally intended to say decades, but recalling Yang Yan's monstrous strength, Ao Tian immediately corrected himself:

"You'll still need to train for a few more years."

Yang Yan didn't press for details, laughed heartily, and waved his hand:

"Let's go!"

Once Yang Yan's voice fell, his figure flickered, leading Fu Changjian and the others quickly.

In just a moment, the four transformed into four brilliant lights, seemingly about to disappear from Ao Tian's sight.

"Where to?"

Ao Tian shouted.

"To rescue the people of the Dusk Race!"

Yang Yan replied airily.

On hearing this, Sass became immediately excited, trembling all over.

He looked at Ao Tian with excitement, but couldn't utter a word.

Ao Tian glanced at him disdainfully and grabbed Sass by the collar.

"Let's go!"

The two transformed into a radiant light, chasing towards Yang Yan and the others.

With the strength of his group, traveling at full speed, returning to the grand formation would be a matter of moments.

"One, two, three..."

Sass placed the Blood Balls given by Yang Yan one by one into the grooves.

He found there were only seven.

One short...

Sass looked eagerly at Yang Yan.

The latter smiled smugly, producing a Blood Pill much smaller in size but brimming with pure Demonic Qi.

It was no exaggeration to say this Blood Pill was a few grades higher than the one obtained through sacrificial offerings in Manhattan!

"This is..."

Sass's breath quickened.

The presence of this object exerted an inexplicable pressure on his chest, making it difficult to breathe.

"A good thing."

Yang Yan said lazily.

Then, using his finger, he forcefully snapped off a piece and flicked it into an unlit groove.

Immediately, the light blossomed brightly, surpassing all the other grooves.

Yang Yan couldn't help but reveal a trace of excitement, then snapped off another small piece and precisely tossed it into the last groove.

All nine grooves were lit, radiating brilliant light.

Creak...

With a violent tremor, the grand formation slowly began to turn.

The nine rays of light interweaved and revolved, eventually converging into a rainbow of seven colors.

"Go!"

Yang Yan suddenly shouted, his figure flickering as he plunged directly into the light.

As his body made contact with the rainbow light, it vanished abruptly, completely disappearing.

Fu Changjian and the others showed no hesitation, following closely after Yang Yan.

In the end, Ao Tian stood by Sass helplessly, lifting Sass as the two dove into the rainbow light.

This was an expansive manor; the night sky was devoid of a moon, with just a few scattered stars.

At the very center of the manor was a broad field, empty.

But suddenly, beams of light flared up, seemingly illuminating the pitch-black night sky.

Finally, the lights merged into the shape of a pentagram.

The once silent manor was suddenly filled with robed figures, moving at a startling speed.

They all had a common goal, which was the center of the manor.

After appearing, Yang Yan mischievously smiled.

He could feel many people converging here, each wielding considerable power.

Yang Yan had just landed when Fu Changjian and the others arrived.

The three appeared abruptly behind Yang Yan, holding swords and glaring coldly at the darkness around them.

"Grandpa's here!"

Ao Tian, grasping Sass, made a similarly bold and flashy entrance.

Yang Yan barely audibly sighed, lightly uttering a word:

"Kill."

His tone was calm, indifferent, giving no hint of his current thoughts.

"Kill!"

The Three Swords wielded their longswords, transforming into three lightning bolts that shot off in different directions.

With Star Night in hand, Yang Yan turned to pat Ao Tian on the shoulder, then charged forth.

It was only when Ao Tian snapped back to reality that he realized, all four had already begun the assault.

"Do you want me to protect you?"

Ao Tian asked in a rather unfriendly manner.

This guy clearly placed the responsibility on Sass.

"Yes, yes, yes."

Sass, completely unaware, nodded rapidly without hesitation.

He dared not risk his life.

After all, he was someone who had already died once.

Any further harm, there wouldn't be a second chance to revive the dead.

Ao Tian clenched his left hand into a fist and took a deep breath.

But in the end, he restrained himself.

To be honest, he truly felt the impulse to beat Sass up.

Meanwhile, a faint scent of blood began to permeate the manor.

Under the starry night, the robed figures surging in were almost instantly eliminated upon contact.