

## The Gods 151

Chapter 151: They Have Loosened the Shackles of Faith

It Was True.

Bai Fei wasn't lying.

Or rather, even if Cheng Shi didn't have the Master of Deception talent, hearing this statement and reflecting on recent events, he could easily deduce that Bai Fei's words were indeed true.

Because [Memory]'s "gifts" and Lu Jingming's change of surname were the clearest proofs.

As expected!

After more than half a year, the [Faith Game] was finally undergoing some changes.

It was becoming less rigid, less bound to strict rules.

The gazes of the gods seemed more attentive than ever.

But why?

Was it simply time, or had something changed between them?

There was no way to uncover the secrets of the gods, but there was one person here who could answer Bai Fei's questions.

That person wasn't Cheng Shi—it was the Grand Marshal, Hu Wei!

Hu Wei paused and turned to glance at Bai Fei, then let out a hearty laugh.

“Xiao Bai, you’re quite well-informed. Who told you?”

“Li Jingming.”

Bai Fei’s tone remained calm, as if all these changes were irrelevant to her. She was only mildly curious about whether the information was accurate.

“I was matched with him in the last trial and saw the mask in his possession. He...

He broke his oath.

He has become a follower of [Deceit].

Yet, he’s still collecting memories.

So, I traded a memory for this information.”

Hu Wei didn’t seem surprised when he heard that Li Jingming had broken his oath to become a follower of [Deceit]—he had clearly known about this for some time.

However, Bai Fei’s revelation still caught him off guard.

“He’s still walking the ‘Path of Memory’?”

“Mm.”

“If you know about his ‘Path of Memory,’ why would you give him your own memories?

Aren’t you afraid he’ll steal your identity and become the ‘Bai Fei’ in that memory?”

Upon hearing this, a rare smile appeared on Bai Fei's face.

That cold, emotionless look suddenly softened into a perfect curve, like a pure snow lotus blooming atop an ice-capped mountain that had been frozen for millions of years.

Beautiful—stunningly beautiful.

“I walk under His gaze. I obliterate others, and I obliterate myself.

I have never feared disappearing. I only fear not finding a path to continue His will after I have obliterated myself.”

?

What does that even mean?

Die for love, is that it?

Crazy-person list +1.

Cheng Shi listened, his face showing an “appreciative” expression as he instinctively took a step back.

Yan Chun's pupils shrank, and his face twisted in shock, utterly unable to comprehend what he was hearing.

Even Hu Wei raised an eyebrow in surprise, as if he hadn't expected Bai Fei's understanding of [Oblivion] to run so deep.

Because Hu Wei knew that [Oblivion] was never about simple destruction.

While [Oblivion] did indeed promote utter annihilation, believing that everything in the universe would eventually return to silence, Hu Wei had once heard a certain [God] mention that amidst the endless decay and collapse, [Oblivion] was searching... for a new self.

So, [Oblivion] was never purely about obliteration—it was about...

Rebirth!

Reflecting on Bai Fei's actions through this lens, it became clear that her offering of her memories to a follower of [Memory] was, in a way, a form of self-obliteration.

And when she no longer had any memories, while someone else possessed all of hers...

Who's to say that the person who holds all of Bai Fei's memories isn't Bai Fei herself?

Moreover, wouldn't that person be a new Bai Fei?

"Incredible!

You understand your Patron better than that annoying janitor does."

Hu Wei's gaze was filled with admiration as he looked at Bai Fei, as if seeing an uncut gem ready to be polished.

And Bai Fei understood that her deep insight into [Oblivion] had earned her an opportunity for answers.

She was eager to know how the [Chosen Ones] were drawing closer to the gods now, and whether their paths aligned with her own.

And what kind of guidance were the gods offering these [Chosen Ones]?

Hu Wei, clearly impressed by Bai Fei's understanding, let out a hearty laugh and had no qualms about revealing the "secrets" of the [Chosen Ones].

"The audience with the gods has already begun!"

With that bombshell, he continued speaking, completely unfazed by Bai Fei's raised eyebrows, Yan Chun's dumbfounded expression, or Cheng Shi's fake look of shock.

"Just as most high-ranking players have speculated, the gods have started taking an interest in certain lucky individuals, summoning them for a personal audience.

However, the relationships within these audiences are quite complicated. The process also intertwines with some of the conflicts between the [Gods].

The god that summons a player isn't necessarily their Patron—it could even be a different [God], sometimes even one from an opposing faith.

After several audiences, we've exchanged some insights.

We all agree that the gods are trying to bring something about.

But what exactly? We don't know.

What we do know is this: the gods seem to be loosening the shackles of faith on players, no longer insisting on the 'purity' of belief."

"?"

Yan Chun's eyes widened instantly. He held his breath, his eyes lighting up with excitement as he asked in disbelief:

"Are you saying... they're allowing betrayal?"

"No, no, no. Betrayal is the wrong word. Let's call it fusion. They're permitting fusion."

"Fusion!?"

Yan Chun froze on the spot before his voice shot up again, asking:

"Faith fusion?"

How do you fuse faith? What do you use to fuse it?"

Exactly. If faith were singular, how could the word "fusion" even apply?

He quickly came to a shocking realization, his expression becoming even more incredulous. His mouth opened and closed several times before he finally ventured a guess:

"Could it be..."

Can they bestow a second faith?

Are we going to have multiple faiths!?

Only then would the idea of fusion make sense!

Grand Marshal, are you experimenting with [Chaos] as your second faith?

Is that why you were granted the power of [Chaos]?

Is that it?"

For someone with such a vast score difference to ask such a bold question was somewhat presumptuous.

But Hu Wei wasn't offended at all. Instead, he smiled meaningfully, neither confirming nor denying the question.

There were no fools present. Seeing Hu Wei's smile, it became clear to everyone that Yan Chun was right!

Or more accurately, they had all guessed correctly!

Hu Wei had most likely been summoned by [Chaos] and granted some special powers!

And it made sense. After all, the will of [Chaos] could ride the tide of [War], and war itself often triggered chaos.

The two could indeed complement each other.

But the bigger question was, if second faiths did exist, how would the gods ensure their own status?

Perhaps there was no hierarchy among the gods, but for players, personal preference and attachment to certain faiths would surely create a ranking system.

Would some faiths inevitably become lesser than others in the eyes of the players?

Could the gods tolerate such a situation?

Cheng Shi didn't know about the other gods, but he knew at least one who seemed perfectly capable of tolerating it...

"....."

Amitabha, forgive me for my sins.