

The Gods 95

Chapter 95: Dear Patron, Hear My Excuses

Cheng Shi woke up in his storage room, feeling an overwhelming hunger. He grabbed two cans of drink and quickly downed them both.

“Burp—”

That hit the spot.

His mind finally clear, he began reviewing the trial he had just completed.

In reality, there wasn't much to review. The trial itself wasn't very complicated; what was complex were the people involved.

A hunter who was being hunted. A liar. A precocious child. An honest old man. And a seemingly simple and innocent celebrity.

Cheng Shi reflected for a long time, but his thoughts kept circling back to his fellow deceiver, Su Yida.

It was Su Yida who had introduced all the complications.

Those players in future trials, the ones who tried to backtrack and hunt him—who were they?

At least one of them was a follower of [Memory]; that much was certain.

And what about [Time]? Where had Su Yida's [Time] power come from?

Why had Zhao Qian been chosen...?

And, most importantly, why hadn't his score on the Ladder of Ascent gone up after the trial?

To Cheng Shi, this was clearly a signal that his patron was displeased with him.

“But I didn’t even do anything!” Cheng Shi thought to himself, aggrieved.

Didn’t he?

All he did was expose Su Yida’s schemes and ask him for something in return.

And that something wasn’t even for himself—it was for someone else! Even though it ended up benefiting him in the end, heavens know, his intention was to get it for someone else!

“...”

Well, at least it wasn’t a negative score.

It meant his patron wasn’t that angry.

And better yet, despite not getting any points, his ranking had actually increased.

Tsk tsk, looks like my patron really is in a bad mood these days.

It’s probably best not to provoke Him further right now. Keeping a low profile would be wise.

Cheng Shi took out the Dice of Fate and carefully placed it on a shelf in his storage room. He also removed his ring and inspected it closely to see if it had been scratched.

Strangely, the Screaming Mouths on the ring had lost all their charge after leaving the trial.

In hindsight, that was a huge loss.

Le Le'er had consumed five portions of fear and only spat out two bolts of lightning. If you round it off... I just lost a billion dollars!

Ugh, I should've fried that dog Su Yida when I had the chance!

As this thought flashed through his mind, a void ripple surged on the rooftop above him.

“Crap!?? I didn't even do anything! Can't I just think about it?”

Before Cheng Shi could react, his vision was once again plunged into darkness.

The same familiar starry sky. The same familiar gaze.

The spiraling whites of the eyes remained still, but the stars in the pupils flickered rapidly.

Just one glance at that gaze, and cold sweat began pouring down Cheng Shi's back.

This was bad. His performance got a D, and now his boss was calling him in for a “talk.”

There was no time to sit and take the blow. He had to make the first move. No—He had to make the first move against a god!

“Praise the great God of [Deceit]! Your divine light illuminates the world, making every lie flawless and every truth fade into obscurity.

It is a tremendous honor to be summoned by You once again. Your humblest, most devout follower, Cheng Shi...

Greets You.”

As he spoke, Cheng Shi even gave a graceful bow.

The stars in the eyes twinkled more rapidly, and after staring at Cheng Shi for a moment, the spirals in the sclera suddenly spun in reverse.

Then, from the infinite void, a hollow voice echoed out.

“Crap, is He really mad? I didn’t do anything to upset Him!”

“!!??”

Cheng Shi hadn’t expected his internal thoughts to be broadcasted so loudly. Panicking, he quickly began reciting his earlier praises in his mind, but to his shock, the void wasn’t reflecting those surface thoughts. Instead, it was broadcasting his deeper subconscious.

“You sneaky motherfucker, playing dirty—this isn’t how it went last time!!”

“!!!!”

Now Cheng Shi was sweating bullets.

He was desperate.

Waving his hands frantically, he tried to explain:

“My dear Patron, please let me explain!

In our culture, ‘mother’ is a symbol of kindness, gentleness, greatness, and forgiveness... representing all the good things in the world.

So...

What I meant was that You nurture us, just like a mother cares for her children, and we are eternally grateful for Your boundless grace.”

The gaze remained unmoved, but the void was bursting with noise:

“Is this working? Will He still be mad?”

“Please stop broadcasting! I’m begging you!”

“If You keep broadcasting, I’m going to file a lawsuit for copyright infringement... oh, wait, I mean, You don’t need permission, my dear Patron. Not at all.”

“Sigh, please just say something. I’m sweating buckets here.”

“Hello, hello? Are You... are You even listening?”

Cheng Shi gave up on struggling...

He shut his mouth and began communicating with his patron through the void.

After rambling on like Su Yida for what felt like an eternity, [Deceit] finally responded.

“You’re afraid. Interesting. Why?”

Before Cheng Shi could answer, the voice from the void cut in again:

“Afraid to die.”

“.....”

Cheng Shi sighed in exasperation. “Alright, let me be honest. What You’re doing right now is very... un-deceitful.”

“Oh? Are you questioning Me?” The gaze blinked, and the corners of its eyes lifted slightly.

“Of course not! This is just the most sincere suggestion from Your most humble follower,” Cheng Shi tried to explain, though he desperately wanted to deflect.

But the void wouldn’t let him. It bluntly spat out:

“Yes!”

“.....”

Damn it. Just end me already.

The gaze twinkled with amusement, as if smiling. “So, you’ve mistaken Me for your mother again?”

“.....”

“I was wrong. I deserve any punishment You deem fit.”

The gaze gave Cheng Shi a quick glance, then slowly returned to its previous state, the stars flickering on and off, the spiral lazily spinning.

When [Deceit] spoke again, there was a teasing tone in the voice.

“When I sensed that He stole a fragment of My authority, I was indeed furious. But I will not punish you for that.”

!!!!!!

What????

Wait... what????

What the hell just happened!?

Who stole [Deceit]’s authority?

[Death]?

Wait... are you saying He stole from my own patron?

Oh crap, does that mean I’ve become a double agent?

Eating from my boss’s hand while helping another blow up his vault?

So, this wasn’t about the Su Yida incident?

Of course, compared to divine authority, Su Yida is nothing.

But this... this mess... is way too big for me to handle!

Can I even bear the weight of this?

Cheng Shi felt like his brain was about to explode. Thankfully, at some point, [Deceit] had withdrawn His power, and the void was no longer broadcasting his inner thoughts.

“I... I...”

Cheng Shi was drenched in sweat.

He was really on the verge of dehydration now.

The gaze watched Cheng Shi’s performance with mild interest, the corners of its eyes subtly lifting.

“Relax. I said I wouldn’t punish you, and I won’t.”

“Yes, yes! You are magnanimous beyond measure! The stomach of a prime minister could hold a ship! I was merely trying to extol Your greatness in front of that other god—who could’ve guessed that He would...

That He would...

Harbor such thoughts...”

“So, you dare curse Me but not Him?”

But that was [Death]!

If I curse You, You’ll just laugh it off. But if I curse Him, I might end up squashed under His butt.

“I...” Cheng Shi desperately wanted to reaffirm his loyalty, but words at this point felt hollow.

“Boring.”

The gaze spun lazily for a while before continuing:

“I’m not here to assign blame. On the contrary, you did quite well. Thanks to your meddling, They’ve finally started scheming against each other.”

Huh?

Scheming?

What did I mess with?

I thought about messing with Su Yida’s mother, but...

Wait a second, dear Patron... am I even supposed to be hearing this?

I’m just a lowly worker making 3,000 a month. Do I really have clearance for these boardroom secrets?

“Although I lost some authority, [Memory] lost even more. Hehe~”

The previously tense atmosphere dissipated in an instant as [Deceit] giggled.

The moment He laughed, everything about Him seemed to become more vibrant in Cheng Shi’s eyes.

In that split second, even the pitch-black void seemed to be filled with dazzling, kaleidoscopic colors.

!!!

[Memory] was stolen from too!

[Death] pulled off a two-for-one heist!

Damn, that's impressive!

Even though my own side took a hit, knowing the other side took a bigger one really makes me feel a lot better. Cheng Shi couldn't help but grin, lowering his head to stifle his laughter.

"He's furious, so... you've probably already felt it."

"!"