

Bigshot 361

Chapter 361 I Haven't showed Up Yet, and I'm About to Die

Jiese said, "Lady Yun, they're dead. Their souls are no longer your concern. Someone will punish them for their sins. I can't give it to

you."

Yun Yiyi asked, "How so?"

Jiese replied, "The eighteenth level of Hell." "I had more faith in punishing them myself! Are you going to give the souls to me?"

Jiese did not reply.

There was a dark glint in her eyes. She was vividly cold towards Jiese. In the end, she scoffed and was about to leave.

Jiese stopped her. He said, "Lady Yun, it's time to let go since your enemy's already defeated!"

Yun Yiyi looked lost. She appeared to be misguided. Then, she went cold again. She said tragically, "How am I supposed to let go? Who can understand my pain? The world hurt me, I want everyone to feel the same pain, too!"

"Stop it. Ask yourself, will that make you happy?"

Jiese looked at Yun Yiyi. They were like two people standing on two huge mountaintops with white clouds floating around. They stared at each other.

"Myself?" Yun Yiyi looked at Jiese with an ironic gaze. "I killed so many people, including Buddhists. Before they died, they still waited for the Buddha to save them. Did the Buddha come? Faith is just a

foolish trick, it can't save anyone!" Jiese chanted Buddhist scriptures silently. "But faith can save itself. I beg of you, stop the killing. Just stop it. Okay?" Yun Yiyi looked at Jiese. She was slightly out of it.

Jiese slowly walked forward and reached out. He looked at Yun Yiyi and said, "I can still marry you. Give me that Lotus Leaf as a dowry?"

Yun Yiyi started to breathe fast. Her first reaction was joyous. She dazedly handed over the Lotus Leaf to Jiese.

The Lotus Leaf had already turned black. It shined in an evil light.

Just when Jiese was about to receive the Lotus Leaf, it started to shine brightly with jet-black light. A cold and cruel voice could be heard from within it, "Want me? Dream on!"

That Lotus Leaf melted into her palm. Then, a jet-black arm suddenly grew out from the back of Yun Yiyi like a venomous snake. Jiese was not ready for that attack and the arm pierced through his chest. He flew away like a cannonball!

"This Buddha's something else. He can even force me to attack him!"

Yun Yiyi was speaking but it did not sound like her. Her voice was mixed with an unknown voice. It sounded extremely creepy.

The Lotus Leaf multiplied underneath her feet. Black Lotus flowers slowly bloomed and held her up.

She started to emit an extremely creepy and terrifying aura. She levitated over to Jiese.

Jiese at that moment had crashed into a wall. His chest had a wound as huge as the mouth of a bowl. Blood flowed out like crazy.

Many souls inside him found an opening in his wound. They opened their mouths wide and howled tragically. They were ready to exit.

However, they could only make it out halfway through. The rest of their forms were tightly locked inside Jiese. "Oh? Not dead yet?"

'Yun Yiyi' looked at Jiese mysteriously. "Then, you shall be the fertilizer of the Black Lotus."

She waved and the Black Lotus instantly shined with a dark light. It attacked Jiese.

Just when the black light was about to touch Jiese, a golden light slowly appeared and formed a shield.

The golden light was not intense. On the contrary, it was very subtle.

It easily blocked out the black light.

Gold and black were natural enemies in color. They were completely different and could not be mixed together.

The souls were sucked back into Jiese. His wound healed itself but instead of flesh, it was with golden paint. Jiese reopened his eyes. He looked at that Black Lotus. Her body was as light as a feather. She was levitating. "Is that... The... Destructive Black Lotus?"

Yuecha had already told Jiese all about the 'Journey to the West' stories. He was familiar with it, too. Therefore, Jiese was able to recognize it at first glance.

"Yo, you're quite knowledgeable."

Yun Yiyi grinned. "This Immortal Item was born with the realm, and it's an Ultimate Heavenly Spiritual Treasure which can destroy realms. Lord Demon Lawless used this lotus to destroy Buddhism that year. And now, Lord Demon God has given it to me!"

Jiese asked in a low voice, "Who are you?"

"I'm the new Lord Demon!" Lord Demon's voice echoed. It was cruel and cold.

Jiese said, "This is between us, come out from her body."

Lord Demon laughed out loud. "Haha, why should I? Come on, come on, this is your lover. Are you going to attack her?"

"Amitabha."

Jiese did the Namaste gesture and shined brightly. His majestic golden light shined and spread. There was a golden halo ring behind him!

Suddenly, Buddhist light took over the realm. It looked like a golden egg from afar.

The intensity of the Buddhist light made Lord Demon unhappy. The Lord Demon waved and spun the Destructive Black Lotus. Demonic flames appeared, forming a long black dragon!

Black and the gold were having a stand-off!

"How... How's this possible?!"

Lord Demon had wide eyes. She was in disbelief.

The Lord Demon did not expect that the puny monk could withstand the power of the Destructive Black Lotus.

It was...impossible!

She asked, "What kind of treasure do you have on you?!"

Jiese did not reply. He slowly raised his arm. Buddhist light poured out and formed a huge dragon.
“Heavenly Dragon!”

Roar!

The golden dragon was too huge. Its dragon head covered the sun in the sky. It was as big as a village. It opened its mouth and devoured the Lord Demon!

From afar, it looked like a huge dragon chewing a ball of black smoke!

The Lord Demon became serious. She raised her arm and said, “Black Demonic Dragon!”

Roar!

Another huge dragon also soared to the sky. It was made from black smoke with the lotus spinning around it. It was entangled with the golden dragon!

Kaboom!

At that moment, the realm flashed!

Nothing was visible for thousands of miles! Everyone looked up and saw the symphony of gold and black light in the sky. They heard rumbles coming from afar. It was a rare and odd sight to behold!

The Buddhist light and demonic energy became sky pillars. It looked extremely terrifying in the air, even the Above Immortal Realm sensed that.

Buzz!

A big golden door slowly appeared out of thin air. Then, it opened and revealed a holy light!

The Heavenly Gates were opened!

Soon, the golden door frame started to split apart, revealing a crack. Then, the crack grew larger. The Heavenly Gates did not appear for long. It shattered like a mirror along with a 'clang'.

At that moment, some sort of block in the realm was suddenly lifted. The bridge to Immortality was completely connected to the Immortal Realm. The limitations of the Absolute Era were shattered. Immortal Qi started to pour in.

"Amitabha." Jiese levitated. His whole body was covered in gold. He placed his hands together to do the Namaste gesture. The Buddhist lights around him were like flashlights. It kept flickering, utterly sparkly and shiny. "Since you won't come out, I shall beat you until you come out!" Boom!

The sculpture of the golden Buddha in his embrace slowly melted into Jiese. It was endlessly powerful. Buddhist hymns could be heard out of nowhere.

An enormous figure of the golden Buddha appeared behind him. Jiese was sitting crossed-legged but he looked holy with his Namaste gesture. People would stop on sight. They might even worship him.

Buzz.

The aura of the place started to become chaotic.

Jiese sat on the chest of the giant Buddha while chanting something. The giant Buddha slowly raised his palm.

The palm was way too huge. It covered the sky and attacked the Lord Demon!

"Jiese, would you really attack me?" This time, it was purely the voice of Yun Yiyi. She sounded pitiful like a beggar.

However, Jiese ignored it. The palm went toward the Lord Demon.

“Nice one, monk! You would even kill your wife!”

‘Yun Yiyi’ squinted. The Destructive Black Lotus spun like crazy. The Lotus Leaf expanded and closed in. It wrapped her up. Waves of dark energy turned into countless huge snakes. It attacked the Buddha’s Hand!

The Buddha Hand landed and demolished the black snakes. It was like a huge mountain crashing into a black lotus!

Boom!

The horrifying explosion turned everything into dust. The high mountain underneath their feet did not stand a chance. It was wiped out before it could crumble. The surrounding mountains were the same.

The forest was also gone. The earth cracked and crumbled. A horrifying bottomless pit was formed!

The smoke and dust faded. The scary phenomenon also vanished. Two bodies laid on the ground next to the bottomless pit.

One of them wore red clothes. The other one had a shiny bald head.

Cough!

Jiese had a lifeless gaze. His shawl was completely torn. He stood up with all his might and walked towards Yun Yiyi.

He fell over and crawled toward her, inch by inch.

Yun Yiyi weakly laid on the ground. She silently looked at Jiese. Tears were streaming out from her eyes. They were both done with fighting

Yun Yiyi smiled palely. "Monk, it turns out you can be sweet sometimes." Jiese laid with Yun Yiyi. "It's all over now."

"Yeah, over. It's so unfair." Yun Yiyi said in a low voice, "I was wrong." Jiese slowly raised his arm. A few howling ghosts appeared on his palm.

"Didn't you want to see what happened to those people who hurt your family? I will make my body a living hell and let them suffer in the eighteenth level of Hell!" Jiese looked down. "Why...would I think it's fair to begin with?"

"Are you still a monk, then?"

"I think therefore I am."

"That's it. That's quite nice."

"Yeah... Quite nice."

Their conversation gradually faded into silence.

A black figure and a white figure slowly appeared in the bottomless pit.

They were wearing high hats with mourning staffs in their hands. Their hands were slightly trembling. They moved forward. "Black, how about you go first? I'll be at the back to cover you."

"Lies! Why don't you go instead?" Black and White Impermanence bickered. "Who fought here exactly? Are they really dead or pretending to be dead?!".

“Sigh, it’s so hard to be an Oni!”

The two of them anxiously peeked their heads out from the bottomless pit. They did so with a lot of courage.

They glanced nervously and noticed the two bodies.

“No way, they did this?”

White Impermanence gulped. He floated over slowly and gradually became shocked. “This... This is... The monk’s body has a huge amount of souls. He trained his body to be a container of souls?!”

“How’s this possible? How are we supposed to do our jobs?” Black Impermanence was also stunned. Then, he widened his eyes as if he remembered something. He exclaimed, “A bald monk, a lady in red. White! Do you remember what the expert told us to do?”

“Oh yeah, the expert told us to take notice of a bald monk and a lady in red. He wants us to pay attention to their situation, this is clearly important to him!” White Impermanence was enlightened. “That’s them alright!”

“Let’s go, be careful. Take them back to the Underworld.”

At the Demon Realm.

“Oof!”

The Lord Demon on the throne suddenly jolted and groaned.

His pupils were like copper coins in his widened eyes. He had bloodshot eyes. He looked shocked, more so discontent. A small stream of blood flowed from the corner of his mouth.

“How is this possible? How is this possible?!”

He was enraged as if he went through the most horrifying incident. His body trembled as his aura weakened like crazy. He was going to die soon!

“How can someone so powerful exist? Who is it exactly? He used a small monk helper and was able to kill me in an impossible way? Even the Destructive Black Lotus can’t stop him, who is he exactly?!”

“I haven’t shown up yet, and I’m about to die? That’s too cruel!”

“Lord Demon God, save me. This is so unfair!”

Lord Demon slowly rested in peace.

Amon and Backo were guarding the door. They looked utterly calm, they might even be a little bit happy.

Ever since the countless failures, they have already lost their confidence. They did not dare to go to the horrifying Immortal Realm ever again. All they wanted to do was to peacefully stay at the Demon Realm. It was nice to spend their time casually.

Hence, they ended up being guards.

Suddenly, they frowned at the same time and looked at each other. They sensed the confusion in the eyes of each other.

“What’s going on? Did the aura of the Lord Demon suddenly vanish?” “I feel it too. The Lord Demon seems to be very aggravated. Then, all of a sudden, nothing.”

They looked at the door. They had no idea what happened.

Amon felt slightly puzzled. "The Lord Demon said he was going to cause havoc in the Immortal Realm with the Destructive Black Lotus. He ordered us to guard the door and not allow anyone to disturb him. Nothing's going to happen to him, right?"

Backo gently stepped closer. He took a deep breath and knocked on the door. "Lord Demon, are you alright?"

Silence.

Knock knock!

He knocked harder.

"Lord Demon, are you in there?"

Still no response.

Creak.

Backo and Amon carefully pushed the door open together. They immediately saw Lord Demon sitting on the throne. They were scared senseless. They fell to the floor.

However, Lord Demon did not scold them. That was unexpected. The Lord Demon stared ahead lifelessly with his coin-like eyes. He seemed to be frozen in place.

Backo gulped. "Lord... Lord Demon?"

They looked up and realized the Lord Demon was bleeding from his mouth!

They hurriedly stepped forward to inspect.

They were instantly mind blown after the inspection. They went blank and completely lost their ability to think.

They stopped breathing and functioning. They fell backward, almost scared to death.

“This... This... This... The Lord Demon’s dead?”

“The Immortal Realm! It must be the doings of the people in the Immortal Realm. Too scary. They can kill while being in their own territories. Boohoo, are they going to spare us a path to live?”

Chapter 362 If You Don’t Leave, Don’t Blame Me for Lying Down

At the Spiritual Mountain.

It was already an ocean.

However, the ocean was gold.

The sky, mountains, land, and everyone in it were covered in a layer of gold.

Everyone bathed in the ocean of gold with blank minds. They were in a daze.

‘Who am I?!

‘Where am I?’

‘What am I doing?’

They kept asking themselves that. They tried hard to recall what they were doing.

They had to because their Insights were on the brink of collapsing.

‘Deluxe Merit, so much Deluxe Merit. Anyone would lose their minds over it. Life’s so unfair!’

Li Nianfan glanced at everyone for their reaction. He had to nod in satisfaction. He was pleased with himself. It was the pleasure of being cool. ‘Who would’ve thought that I, an ordinary man, can flex in front of all these bigshots? All thanks to my golden touch.’

It took courage for him to show up, too. He wanted to ensure no one dared to fight so he used his powers. Although it was harmless, the powerful aura was still one-of-a-kind. It instantly stopped everyone in their tracks. The way he yelled ‘stop’ was strong and confident. It echoed in the ears of the Demons like a rumble of thunder. They did not dare to move.

The Big Lord Demon snapped out of it. He instantly went cold and felt his skin crawl. He was scared senseless. He yelled nervously, “Stop, all of you stop it! Drop your weapons, don’t use your powers. Don’t hurt anyone by accident!”

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Then, to be safe, he added, “Back up, all of you back up!”

The Demons instantly backed up.

The Big Lord Demon calmed his quivering heart. He tried to sound friendly and said, “Sir, this is the grudge between us Demons and Buddhists. It’s none of your concern, sir. Please, don’t interfere.”

“The Demonic Religion causes havoc and makes the people suffer. How can I stand by and watch as a human? Which is why I’ll kill every single one of you, including whatever Lord Demon you got, even if it costs me my cultivation!”

Li Nianfan smiled. He put his foot down for justice. After all, he could be reckless since he had the protection of his Deluxe Merit Flesh. He could do whatever he wanted!

“Sir, you saw what Buddhism did just now. They’re all a bunch of fascists. Don’t be fooled by them!” Big Lord Demon forcefully repressed his anger.

Li Nianfan looked indifferent. He said, “Enough. I see through your cheap tricks with my wise eyes. You’re obviously framing them! You’ll have to step over my dead body if you want to destroy Buddhism!”

Big Lord Demon was troubled. "Sir, you're troubling us!"

'Step over your dead body?

'By then, the Demons would already be extinct before Buddhism could be destroyed.'

He went silent for a while. He had an idea and flicked his wrist. Out came a black dagger.

He clenched his jaw and looked like he was in pain. He said, "Sir, this is an Ultimate Heavenly Spiritual Treasure. This dagger's attack is incredibly powerful and it's indestructible. It can also corrupt souls. It's a rare and precious treasure. Please, leave us be,

sir."

Li Nianfan was baffled.

'This Big Lord Demon's something else, he knows bribery.'

"What are you doing? Are you looking down on me? This is an insult!" Li Nianfan said in a serious tone. "If you don't leave, don't blame me for lying down on the ground!"

“No, please, don’t. Let’s talk this out.”

Big Lord Demon jumped. He looked troubled. In the end, he sighed softly and backed away.

The Demons frowned. They asked dazedly, “Lord Demon, what should we do?”

“Sigh. This Deluxe Merit Saint’s such a pot-stirrer. Can’t he just play by the rules and let us fight fairly?”

“This is too much. He went too far.”

“Lord Demon!”

Suddenly, Moyun spoke up with an unhappy face. He sounded sacrificial, “Let me have a go at it!”

Big Lord Demon was puzzled. “Go? Where are you going?”

“I’ll go die with that Deluxe Merit Saint!” Moyun looked righteous with a sanctified light on his face. He said slowly, “I’m just an ordinary man. I can totally kill him. I’ll die with them but for the Demons, it’s worth it!”

He was about to step out and sprint toward Li Nianfan. "Goodbye, everyone. I won't be back!"

"Come back here!"

Big Lord Demon had cold sweat all over. Thankfully, he was fast and agile enough. He tackled him and was shocked and angry. He gave two big slaps to Moyun before he said anything.

"Is something wrong with your brain?!".

Big Lord Demon was baffled. He said coldly, "You'll kill the Deluxe Merit Saint for Demons but we Demons will all die because of karma! You stupid fool, you pig-head!"

Moyun did not get it yet. He said stubbornly, "I'm responsible for my own actions. I'll be the one to kill him, what does it have to do with the Demons?"

"Who got this fool to work beside me?"

The Big Lord Demon was dumbfounded. He was so livid that he was even entertained at one point. "Come on, hurry up and drag him out of here. Oh yeah, for safety precautions, lock him up first for a hundred... No, wait, for a thousand years."

Moyun found it unfathomable. He cried while he got dragged away. He sobbed, "Big Lord Demon, why would you treat me like this..."

"Sigh, don't let fools be your teammates. They can easily jeopardize things!" Big Lord Demon sighed and groaned. He took out a black hexagon crystal in his hand. He cast a spell and the black crystal started to shine.

He decided to contact Lord Demon and asked for his opinion. Buzz, buzz, buzz.

'Huh? Why's it taking so long? Perhaps Lord Demon's away at the moment?' Suddenly, the black crystal shined.

Big Lord Demon instantly looked alive. He said, "Lord Demon, we have an emergency here."

However, all he heard was frantic breathing coming from the black crystal.

The panting lasted for a while. Then, he heard Amon's frantic voice, "Big Lord Demon, bad news, Lord Demon's dead!"

"What?"

Big Lord Demon looked around. He thought he was hallucinating.

Then, he heard Backo sobbing, “Dead... Lord Demon’s really dead! Big Lord Demon, hurry up and come back. It’s too scary!”

‘Dead... Dead?’

The bad news struck him like lightning. Big Lord Demon was stunned.

Backo and Amon would not dare to lie.

He quivered and had a cold sweat. He yelled, “Everyone, listen to my orders! Retreat to the Demon Realm as fast as possible! Hurry up, hurry up!”

Fume!

Hundreds of Demons immediately soared to the sky. They were threatening as they came and quick as they went. They did not say goodbye to anyone. They disappeared into the horizon in the blink of an eye.

‘How should we put this? It’s kind of sudden.’

Everyone bafflingly looked in the direction where they disappeared. They could not understand why.

Xiao Chengfeng said smugly, "They ran fast. Otherwise, I would've killed them all with my sword!"

No one replied. They pretended they did not hear what he said.

Yuecha stood up and did the Namaste gesture. She bowed at Li Nianfan with respect, "Amitabha, thanks for the help, Mr. Li. You saved Buddhism."

Li Nianfan shrugged it off, "The Demons weren't good anyway. Helping you all would be helping myself. It's not a big deal." Yuecha continued, "Mr. Li, I'm indebted to you for my conversion, for your advice, preachings, and for saving my life. I'm forever grateful to you. I'm afraid I won't be able to repay you in my lifetime." Li Nianfan could tell what she meant by that. He arched his eyebrow, "Tara Yuecha, you..."

"Don't call me Tara Yuecha anymore. My sins are heavy. I can't give a bad name to Buddhism." Yuecha paused and continued, "It's not appropriate for my body to live in this realm. I can die in peace now that I have set up Buddhism. I shall disintegrate to wipe out the dirty stain in Buddhism."

Li Nianfan asked, "Buddhism isn't strong enough. Tara Yuecha, aren't you worried that Buddhism would be bullied if you leave?" "It's all up to Fate."

Yuecha bowed at Li Nianfan again. Then, she slowly levitated above the temple.

"I know that my sins are unforgivable. Today, I'm willing to disintegrate to pay for my sins. Please, witness it, everyone!" She sat crossed-legged and soon after, she was engulfed in golden flames while everyone watched.

Chapter 363 Bodhi Understandings, Acheron and Naihe Bridge

Golden flames danced in the air. Soon, Yuecha's figure slowly disappeared. Then, the golden flames died out. Nothing was left. It was as if nothing happened.

The scene was silent. A breeze blew by.

"Amitabha."

Every monk did the Namaste gesture and silently chanted Buddhist scriptures. The death of Yuecha did enlighten the Buddhists.

"Sigh, lost a friend again." Li Nianfan shook his head. He felt sentimental.

He experienced more things as he approached more cultivators. He learned various lessons in the Immortal Realm. He did hear about these things before but there was a difference when it was a personal experience.

Most of the time, other people had chosen their paths. Even capable friends could not help them out at all.

Cultivators were sometimes fickle. They did act like how Immortals should act.

That was the review of Li Nianfan. In other words, cultivators around him were friendly.

‘Yuecha’s death meant that she must be in the Underworld. I’ll visit when I’m free so I can ensure she’ll reincarnate nicely,’ thought Li Nianfan. He could only help her with that.

The Grand Ceremony of Buddhism ended nicely. It was not perfect but it was a nice ending

Yuecha was gone. The Buddha was gone. Buddhism was in a very awkward state. Lots of guests left. The incident would probably be the talk of the town for a long while.

Li Nianfan and the others did not leave.

Buddhism was unstable. So, he stayed to take care of things.

Thankfully, the monks were mentally stable. Nothing bad happened. However, it was dead quiet at the scene and everyone looked kind of lost.

Li Nianfan could not do anything about that. The Buddhists had to make it through that obstacle by themselves.

He stayed for three days before he was ready to leave.

Before he left, he went to the Buddhism backyard. He wanted to chat with Jiechi. The little monk was the only monk he was familiar with at that point.

A sky full of fallen leaves flew into the backyard. He saw a little figure holding a broom from afar. He was leaning on the broom, sleeping from exhaustion.

He was mumbling in his sleep. It was very funny and cute.

Li Nianfan walked closer and heard his mumbles.

“Master Yuecha, Senior Jiese, I don’t believe that you two are Demons. You two will come back, right?”

“I’ll work hard to sweep the floor and clean up the leaves. Come back once I’m done cleaning, alright?”

“I have new understandings in Buddhism, I don’t know who I can talk to about it.”

Li Nianfan smiled bitterly. He did not wake him up.

‘He suffered such pain at such a young age. How terrible.’

He shook his head and was ready to leave.

Suddenly, he saw a row of words in the corner of his eye. It was carved into the stone next to the Bodhi Tree.

“The body as a Bodhi Tree, the heart as a mirror stand. Frequently wipe it and clean it, don’t let it be dusty.”

Li Nianfan was amazed. He turned to look at the sleepy little monk in awe. “This is...his new understanding of Buddhism from sweeping the floor?

‘This is legit. It’s too bad he’s not a straight-A student.’

He looked around and picked up a branch. He smirked and wrote another poem next to that poem.

‘There’s no Bodhi Tree; nor a mirror stand. Since all is void, where can the dust alight?’

“Little monk, bye.”

Li Nianfan spoke softly and then slowly walked out from the backyard.

An hour later.

There was a ‘smack’ sound. The broom fell to the floor. The little monk also fell on his face with an ‘ouch’ sound.

“Bah!”

He spat out the leaves in his mouth and rubbed his bald head. He woke up.

“Yikes, how did I fall asleep? I have to quickly sweep the floor so that Master and Senior can come back sooner!”

He picked up the broom. Then, he was slightly surprised to see the new writings.

“Huh? Who wrote this?”

He bent down and read it slowly.

He was awestruck after reading it. His mouth hung open as his mind wandered.

“This... This... This wisdom...”

He gulped and sat crossed-legged underneath the Bodhi Tree. He kept looking back and forth at the two poems. “Wise. So much wiser than mine.”

The previous poem highlighted wiping away a stubborn mindset and reflecting internally to constantly be pure. Li Nianfan’s poem was much better. He expressed it clearly. There was no stubborn mindset to begin with so why the constant need to clean and wipe?

It was deep and direct.

“The leaves in the backyard are nothing but my stubborn task. I keep being stubborn, and the leaves keep falling. All I had to do was let go of my stubbornness and these leaves will naturally be gone.”

He looked enlightened. He did the Namaste gesture and shut his eyes. Buddhist light slowly formed around him as a halo also appeared behind him. His already-shiny-bald-head was shinier. He was in a state of transcendence.

Leaves danced around Jiechi along with the wind. Then, it slowly vanished in the air.

The dead leaves on the floor started to sway before slowly, they vanished...

Meanwhile, Li Nianfan and the others left the Spiritual Mountain. They rode on clouds to a large city.

The city had a City God Temple.

A lot of people worshipped the statues inside the City God Temple.

The statue in the middle was an elder with a goatee and a round hat. He looked friendly.

Immortals would notice that as people lit the incense sticks, the smoke would fly to the sky. Then, a mysterious force would enter the statue.

That was the power of incense wishes. Once incense wishes were accumulated to a certain point, it would be considered as Deluxe Merit for faith. This was why the souls of the City God Temple could exist in the Immortal Realm for a long while.

Li Nianfan headed in. The soul in the statue came out from its vessel to salute Li Nianfan. Then, he gesturally hinted and floated to the back.

Li Nianfan and the others followed. They went to a side room in the backyard.

The elder greeted Li Nianfan, "Greetings to Mr. Li. I'm Zhu Chengming of the Fallen Flower City God Temple. Greetings to everyone."

"Greetings to City God Zhu," saluted Li Nianfan. Then, he said, "I'm here to disturb you again, City God Zhu. So sorry about that." Previously, he requested City God Zhu to pass the message about Yun Yiyi and Jiese to the Underworld.

"You're too courteous, Mr. Li. I'm able to become a City God all because of you."

City God Zhu sounded sincere. He was able to become a City God so his manners were naturally on point. He continued, "Mr. Li, Black and White Impermanence Sires sent me a message. They said they found a monk and a lady in red. They're in the Underworld right now. However, they aren't sure if they're who you're looking for." Li Nianfan was stunned. It was unacceptable. He asked in shock, "At the Underworld? They're dead?"

City God Zhu nodded, "It appears so."

Sigh...

Li Nianfan sighed and frowned. He then said, "Can I trouble you to inform the Impermanence Sires, City God Zhu? I...want to go to the Underworld."

His Deluxe Merit Flesh allowed him to soar through the skies and go beneath the land. He would like to check out the legendary Underworld. More importantly, he wanted to see if he could help Jiese, Yun Yiyi, and Yuecha.

“Please, wait just a minute, Mr. Li. I’ll contact the Black and White Impermanence Sires now,” replied City God Zhu. Then, he left. He was back after fifteen minutes. A black figure and a white figure followed him.

Black and White Impermanence were both expressionless. They saw Li Nianfan and smiled. They said in a friendly tone, “Mr. Li.”

Li Nianfan also smiled and said, “Greetings to the Black and White Impermanence Sires.”

“Zhu already told us everything. Mr. Li, you’re more than welcome to visit our Underworld.” White Impermanence paused. Then, he said, “But I’m afraid it’s not appropriate for a lot of people to enter since the Underworld’s an important land and it’s not stable yet.”

He looked at the bunch behind Li Nianfan.

‘This insult... Hm, kind of obvious.’

Ziye suddenly spoke up, “Sires, long time no see.” “You’re...” Black and White Impermanence looked at Ziye and suddenly jolted. They were shocked and pleasantly surprised. They said, “Goddess Ziye? You... You...”

Ziye smiled and nodded, "It's me."

"If it's the Seventh Princess, the Underworld naturally welcomes you," White Impermanence smiled and nodded. Then, he once again looked at everyone else.

Immortal Linzhu shook her head, "I won't be going. There's no delicious food in the Underworld anyway."

Pei An and the others were very friendly. They smiled and saluted the Black and White Impermanence. "We won't be intruding."

Those two were the Death Gods. The cultivators would die eventually so they had to give in. Black and White Impermanence looked at Xiao Chengfeng. Xiao Chengfeng raised his eyebrow. He was instantly unhappy. "What's the meaning of this? I'm not worthy enough to enter the Underworld, too?"

Pei An and Gu Yuan knew he was about to talk nonsense again. They hurriedly dragged him away.

"Do you know who I am? I'm that sword cultivator who's well-respected by three million sword cultivators in the Above Immortal Realm! The Underworld will have to respect me!" Xiao Chengfeng struggled. "Let go of me!"

"Sorry, there's no sword cultivator in our Underworld," Black Impermanence smirked coldly. Then, he very naturally changed his facial expression when he was talking to Li Nianfan. He said in a friendly manner, "Mr. Li, shall we depart now?"

“Yeah, apologies for the trouble, Sires.”

“Not at all. Not a problem at all.” Black and White Impermanence waved it off. Then, they raised their arms at the same time and cast a spell. Ripples formed in the air. Soon, a jet-black door appeared in front of everyone.

“Mr. Li, please.”

Black and White Impermanence led the way. They stepped into the door. It was creepily cold the minute they stepped into the door. It felt like being out on a summer day and suddenly walking into a cold room with an air-conditioner. His eyes were slightly unfocused. He looked again and saw a huge river in front of him. The river was flowing strongly and was muddy yellow. Everyone stood on the side. They could feel water vapor in their face and could hear the loud waves.

The river was wide and gushing!

Li Nianfan did not expect that the process to enter the Underworld was nothing but a door. He truly felt like he just entered a room from another room.

He was instantly awestruck by the river in front of him.

The Underworld was dim like a constant sunset. The sky was red. It was kind of overwhelming and depressing. Li Nianfan licked his lip. He exclaimed, “Is this...the Acheron?”

"It's the Acheron," White Impermanence nodded and introduced. "This is where the souls belong after death. Usually, the souls in the Acheron are lost ghosts. Only the souls who manage to find the Naihe Bridge and successfully reincarnate can get rid of their ghost identities."

"I see." Li Nianfan looked over. He saw fiery red patches on the other side of the Acheron. Those were Higan Flowers, and they were swaying as if they were giving direction.

Li Nianfan suddenly arched his eyebrow. He realized something. "Why aren't there any other ghosts here?"

Black Impermanence replied, "Mr. Li, this is a path for Onis only. The ordinary ghosts are elsewhere."

'So, this is an express lane.'

Li Nianfan nodded. He learned something new.

To be honest, the path of the Acheron was very boring. It was a dim realm, only the gushing river and the beautiful red Higan Flowers were entertaining.

Thankfully, the express lane was fast. Soon, they saw a bridge at the front. A long row of human figures was moving on the bridge. As they got closer, they could see that it was a bunch of ghosts lining up on the bridge. They looked exhausted and depressed. They stood in line with uneasiness.

Apart from humans, there were a lot of souls from various animals. The number of souls was huge.

Onis with uniforms handled them. They were managing the order by surrounding them.

There was a huge stone near the bridge. 'Naihe Bridge' was carved into the stone in blood red.

"It's indeed Naihe Bridge." Li Nianfan was emotional because that was the famous Naihe Bridge. He did not expect that he would be able to stand at the bridge as a living human, as a mere visitor.

'Too bad I can't flex this to anybody.

'Sigh, it's so lonely to be in a different realm.'

He looked over and saw an old granny with a face full of wrinkles. The granny was slightly hunched over. She smiled and scooped soup for the souls to drink.

She saw Li Nianfan and instantly smiled in a friendly manner. She nodded as a friendly way to say hi.

Li Nianfan smiled awkwardly in response. He looked at the soup and felt a shiver in his heart. He quickly looked away.

'That soup...isn't good. Must not drink it.'

"No, I don't want it!" Suddenly, they heard a desperate voice.

The voice was from a middle-aged man. He looked fully terrified. He finally snapped when Meng Po gave him the soup. He was shaking all over and was ready to run.

However, he was stopped by Onis before he could make a run for it. He was held down in place.

"Fella, are you trying to cause a scene here?" an Oni smirked coldly. He threatened, "Drink up. Otherwise, we'll punish you on your way to reincarnation!"

"No, please, I want to cooperate, too. But the soup's too terrible, the taste...blergh!"

The middle-aged man almost cried. "Blergh! I can't stand it. This is considered my last meal, can it be something not awful tasting?"

"Drink this soup, I guarantee you that you'll forget what tastes awful." The two Onis smiled. They were used to a situation like that. They easily forced the middle-aged man to drink every drop of the soup.

The middle-aged man struggled and trembled like crazy. His face was twisted as if he was in agony.

However, he soon stopped struggling.

The middle-aged man was numb in his expression. He lifelessly looked at the front with dead eyes. He forgot about everything as he quietly floated over the Naihe Bridge.

Yikes

Li Nianfan gasped. His skin was crawling. He was frightened by what happened.

'Scary, too scary!

"Thankfully, I'm not in line. Thank God!"

Chapter 364 Odd Situation, Fix the Underworld

Li Nianfan was slightly scared. He asked in a frightened voice, "Really no problems in doing that?"

"It's just the taste. It's a bit awful but there's nothing wrong with it." White Impermanence shook his head and then said, "Can't be helped. The Meng Po Soup tastes like that. There's a nice saying in the Immortal Realm, 'forgetting is in itself a painful thing'. Why's it painful? Because the Meng Po Soup's a pain to drink."

The corner of Li Nianfan's mouth twitched. 'Where did he freaking hear this lousy saying from?

'If they knew that forgetting was a painful thing to do, they should've made the soup tastier. They should've at least made it acceptable.'

They passed through the Naihe Bridge and arrived on the other side of the Acheron. He could see a lot of Onis guarding the place. He followed Black and White Impermanence and was soon at the door of the main hall. There was a huge sign on it, with "The Underworld" written in big fonts.

The door was wide open. It was dark and hollow like a cave. It looked like a deadly beast that would devour anything. It was frightening to look at.

'This is the real Underworld.'

They stepped in. There were no Immortal Realm lights, but there was a creepy dim green light. The surrounding walls were not made from materials, they were uneven rocks. It was as if the Underworld was made from carving a big hole in a rock.

The layout of the place was very simple and ugly. There was nothing much except for the little streams and huge rocks. However, there were a lot of little doors all around it. Ghosts kept coming in and out of them. Some of them floated here on their own. Some of them were arrested and escorted by Onis.

White Impermanence automatically became the tour guide, “Mr. Li, these ghosts are being sent to their specific locations based on their situations before their deaths. Some drank the Meng Po Soup and were going to reincarnate. Some were going to Hell. Or perhaps, they were being sent for judgment.”

Li Nianfan nodded. He was basically standing at a hub.

He asked, “Can I trouble you Sires to help me look for Yuecha, Jiese, and Yun Yiyi?”

Black Impermanence smiled and replied, “Mr. Li, you already informed us before. These three are with the Yama.”

Li Nianfan slightly raised his eyebrow. “They drank the Meng Po Soup?”

“No, no!” Black Impermanence shook his head continuously. He hurriedly said, “Mr. Li, since you already informed us about them, how could we let them drink the Meng Po Soup? However...their situations were abnormal.” Li Nianfan was stumped. He asked curiously, “What situation?”

White Impermanence replied in a troubled voice, “I don’t know how that monk did it. He made his body into a vessel and contained tons of ghosts and souls. His body was like an enigma. He was still in deep sleep. So was the lady named Yun Yiyi. Her body went through some sort of transformation. The two of them won’t wake up, and it seems we can’t do anything about it either.”

‘What’s going on with those two? Even the Underworld can’t do anything?’

Li Nianfan was shocked. “Really?”

They immediately entered a door at the center. They walked for a while and came to the main hall.

They could hear the sound of someone striking a table before they got to the door.

Bam!

Then, they heard a cold and strict voice, “Sinner Qin Luyun. You’re a liar and a fraud. You’ve indirectly caused the deaths of two innocent people for no reason. You shall walk the animal route, be a dog in your next life!”

“I didn’t do anything seriously evil, I don’t think it’s fair!”

“You dare say that? Adding one more sin for you. Drag him out, be a pig in your next life. Your reward’s a bowl of Meng Po Soup.”

Soon, an Oni walked out with a lost soul, passing by everyone.

Li Nianfan had no sympathy for sinners like that. He entered the main hall and saw the General of the Bloody Sea. He was holding the Death Note and was acting as a temporary judge.

He saw Li Nianfan and immediately smiled. “Mr. Li.”

Li Nianfan saluted, “Greetings to the General.”

The General of the Bloody Sea knew why he came by. He did not delay the conversation. With a wave, an Oni immediately brought someone in.

Yuecha looked confused at first. Then, she looked like she realized what was going on once she saw Li Nianfan. She smiled awkwardly and said, “Mr. Li, who would’ve thought we’d see each other so soon?”

Li Nianfan smiled and nodded in response. He looked at Jiese and Yun Yiyi.

They were lying on the floor. They were not in ghost form yet. Their bodies were perfectly fine. They did not look like they were injured at all.

The weird part was that Jiese had a golden halo. It was shimmery and shiny, unlike Yun Yiyi. She had a sparkly black halo.

Li Nianfan could not tell what was going on. He just thought it was very odd.

He had to ask, “When will they wake up?”

White Impermanence shook his head and said, “I can’t say for sure. They might be in a coma forever if we don’t have a solution. Of course, maybe a miracle will happen. Maybe in the next moment, they will...”

He stopped in his tracks halfway through his sentence. He widened his eyes in disbelief.

“This... This... This...

‘They woke up?!’

White Impermanence gulped. His face hurt.

Everyone simultaneously looked at Li Nianfan in awe. They saw that he looked surprised, too. The corners of their mouths twitched at that.

‘Bigshot, you’re such a good actor. We were just waiting for your arrival to help us the whole time, right? ‘You obviously did this, right?’ Jiese had an intense golden light. The light suddenly soared to the sky. They could visibly see countless howling souls in the golden light.

The souls were also helpless in the Underworld. They could not get out of Jiese.

Yun Yiyi had an intense darkness, too. She levitated and formed a weird spiral.

“This is...”

The General of the Bloody Sea had wide round eyes. His mouth was wide and round, too. He dazedly moved forward.

He kind of figured something out. He was astounded and excited at the same time.

At that moment, the Underworld was covered by a powerful aura. The creepy part was that they heard buzzing out of nowhere.

Buzz!

A horrifying airwave exploded with Jiese as the center. A golden light dragon soared to the sky and became a light pillar. It almost pierced through the Underworld.

Everyone in the Underworld saw the sky pillar, including the ones outside and the ones at the Naihe Bridge. They were shocked.

They felt fearful looking at the pillar. They hurriedly looked away. They did not dare to move.

Gradually, a figure of a pagoda slowly appeared in the light pillar. It spun slowly.

It was about a hundred and eight meters tall. Eighteen layers in total!

Meng Po was in disbelief. She trembled all over as she said, "The...the eighteen levels of Hell!"

Kaboom!

Another strong aura appeared.

Next to the golden light was an intense dark light. The darkness formed a black lotus that slowly spun. A groundbreaking aura was emitted.

Soon, the black lotus started to spin fast. It became a bottomless spiral. The jet-black spiral was like a wormhole.

Splat!

The ladle Meng Po was holding dropped into the pot of soup. Her brain seemed to lose the ability to think. She had existed for countless years, yet her state of mind was instantly shattered at that moment. If it were not for the many strangers around her, she probably would have danced and cheered.

“Reincarnation! That’s the Reincarnation! The Destructive Black Lotus represents destruction. A new life usually follows after destruction. The expert used the Destructive Black Lotus as a base to patch up the Reincarnation. This is...too, totally incredible!”

The Reincarnation and the eighteen layers of Hell were damaged. The Underworld seemed to be running properly on the surface, but deep down they could not solve the two huge issues. However, the Reincarnation and the eighteen layers of Hell were now fixed. The Underworld was whole again.

Meng Po kept mumbling, “I knew it. The visit of the expert is a sure blessing!”

Chapter 365 I Think This Could Be a Bonus

Inside the Yama Main Hall.

Everyone was shocked, including Li Nianfan.

Although, to everyone else, he was just pretending to be shocked.

Gradually, the pagoda solidified. An overwhelmingly powerful aura was emitted. Everyone felt like they could not breathe.

Li Nianfan suddenly said, "Jiese's body..."

Jiese turned golden. He started to become transparent, too. It was as if he was made with gold crystals. The light of the pagoda shone. In the end, his body was absorbed into the pagoda.

It was the same for Yun Yiyi. Her body spun as the Black Lotus melted into the odd spiral.

Fume

Then, the golden pagoda and the black spiral beamed in different directions! Kaboom!

The earth exploded. The entire Underworld shook.

Black and White Impermanence, the General of the Bloody Sea, and Meng Po felt their hearts racing like crazy. They all thought of a possibility. They started breathing heavily. They wanted nothing more than to rush over and confirm it.

It landed!

The eighteen layers of Hell and the Reincarnation landed in the Underworld!

'Awesome. The Underworld's now stable!'

They had all their facilities in check.

However, the expert was next to them. Li Nianfan did not move, so they had to contain their excitement and go along with it. They could not be rude.

They stood in place. Jiese and Yun Yiyi floated in the air as ghosts. They both looked lost. Finally, they snapped out of it after a long while.

Yun Yiyi saw Jiese and instantly smiled. "Jiese, are we in the Underworld?"

Jiese nodded, "Amitabha. Most probably."

"Haha, Jiese. You're a ghost now, you don't need to 'Amitabha' anymore," laughed Li Nianfan.

"Mr. Li!"

Yun Yiyi and Jiese instantly felt at ease. They hurriedly floated over, "Lady Daji, Lady Fire Phoenix."

Nanan put her hands up and reminded everyone, “Us, too. Nanan and Dragin!”

Jiese hurriedly said, “Sorry for being impolite.”

He did not expect to see familiar faces in the Underworld. It was a pleasant surprise.

However, he saw Yuecha. He jolted. He said in disbelief, “Tara Yuecha, you...”

Yuecha said, “I was a Demon before I died. It’s good that I’m dead, otherwise, Buddhism would have a bad name.”

Jiese did the Namaste gesture and said in a tragic tone, “Amitabha.”

Li Nianfan said at the side, “Jiese, I didn’t expect that you and Lady Yun would die. How did you two die exactly? Also, did you know what you two just did? How did you do that? That was amazing. To describe it in one word, awesome!”

‘How did they do it? You’re pretending like you don’t know?’

Everyone froze in place. They tried their best to control themselves. It was hard to endure.

Jiese was turning purple in the face. Buddhists should not call other people out on their lies. He wondered if he should break that rule.

Yun Yiyi coughed softly and said, "Um... An odd occurrence. Jiese and I fought each other to death." Li Nianfan said, "Your odd occurrence is so powerful."

White Impermanence nodded and agreed, "Indeed powerful. Definitely one-of-a-kind!"

Black Impermanence went along with it, too. "You two are blessed! But I'm afraid your odd occurrence is related to the Underworld, our shattered eighteen layers of Hell and Reincarnation are back on track."

"So, that's what those two things are," nodded Li Nianfan.

'It seems like the expert's trying hard to pretend that it has nothing to do with him.'

'Since the bigshot's pretending, we have to go along with it.'

If the bigshot suddenly pointed at a pig and said it was a dog, then the pig was a dog. Whoever said it was a pig, they would fight them.

"Yeah... Yeah." The General of the Bloody Sea smiled. He asked, "Mr. Li, do you want to take a look?"

Li Nianfan was interested, "I can?"

"Sure, of course," Black and White Impermanence immediately nodded. "To be honest, we can't wait either."

Li Nianfan laughed, "Then what are we waiting for? Let's go." "Here, here!"

The General of the Bloody Sea led the way. Everyone walked out from the Yama Main Hall. They went back to the hub and stood in front of a door at the side.

The General of the Bloody Sea stopped in his tracks. He was very nervous. He felt fearful, like reaching home after a long time and fearing that it would all be for nothing.

After a long while, he took a deep breath and entered the room.

They all walked in as well. Li Nianfan felt overwhelmed. There were clanging sounds out of thin air, and a burning heat from the floor. They felt anxious.

They were standing on a narrow bridge!

Underneath the bridge was hot molten lava!

The golden lava slowly flowed and created waves of fire. It was blinding because the Underworld was dim and gloomy... Scary!

Li Nianfan had not compared lava before. However, he had a feeling that the lava was more than a hundred times scarier than volcano lava!

There was a pagoda in the lava, underneath the bridge. The pagoda had eighteen layers. It was extremely huge, and it looked like the pagoda figure they saw earlier. The pagoda was connected to the bridge and the four walls with metal ropes that were thicker than people. The bridge swayed in the air.

They could see what was happening inside the pagoda from the bridge. All sorts of weird and scary torture devices were in there. Some rooms looked like kitchens full of boiling oil. They could also see a mountain full of knives and a sea made of fire.

Li Nianfan looked at it from afar. He felt visually impacted. He suddenly felt like he was puny. If he had to describe it, it was astounding, majestic, and very scary! "Eighteen layers of Hell. It's the eighteen layers of Hell! It's back, it's really back!"

Black and White Impermanence and a lot of Onis were awestruck by the sight. They were emotional and they teared up. They almost cried a river.

For countless years, they came here and saw nothing but a wasteland. The lava used to be cold rocks. The pagoda used to be what was left of it. They felt cold and miserable. However...

Things had changed!

The wasteland became the true eighteen layers of Hell!

They were all thinking of the previous wasteland, so it impacted their emotions harder. They wanted to not cry but it was too hard to endure.

The General of the Bloody Sea looked at Li Nianfan from behind. He had nothing but respect for the man.

‘He can easily change realms. Even the Destructive Black Lotus can be transformed in the eyes of the expert.

‘The eighteen layers of Hell and Reincarnation are probably toys in his eyes.’

Anybody with his level of abilities would have treated the world as an insect. Only the expert would deny taking credit for it. ‘Why? ‘He’s clearly trying to be more approachable with others!

‘Once the expert admits he’s awesome, he’d be so high up. How could we be his bootlickers by then? He would be unapproachable.

'His level of thinking is so far above us. It's indescribable.'

"Oh yeah," said the General of the Bloody Sea. He suddenly had an idea and felt like he had to perform for all the big shots. He said, "Previously, the eighteen layers of Hell were destroyed. A lot of evil ghosts didn't get the punishment they deserve. I could put them in here. What do you think, Mr. Li?"

Li Nianfan smiled. "You should do as you need, General." "Onis, bring them up!" Soon, a bunch of Onis walked over with a batch of evil ghosts with cuffs on their wrists and legs.

A lot of the evil ghosts were from the previous Bloody Sea. They looked extremely disgusting and horrid. They were scary to look at.

They also struggled and roared.

A lot of ghosts begged and screamed in agony. However, it was too late to regret their actions.

The General of the Bloody Sea looked harsh. "Ha, you all are lucky to be the first batch of the new eighteen layers of Hell. Have fun!"

Every Oni got assigned their tasks under his orders. They sent the ghosts to different levels of Hell.

Li Nianfan was perfectly fine. He did not enjoy looking at torture so he soon lost interest.

Jiese, Yuecha, and Yun Yiyi had complicated facial expressions. They looked frightened because they felt like they could not escape the fate of Hell. They felt weak.

The General of the Bloody Sea noticed that Li Nianfan was not interested. He asked, "How about we check out the Reincarnation area?"

Li Nianfan nodded, "If that's possible, that'd be nice."

He visited most of the Underworld. The trip was pretty worth it.

Reincarnation was naturally an important land of the Underworld. It was very important so there were a lot of Onis guarding the area.

Li Nianfan followed the General of the Bloody Sea to the Reincarnation area. He realized that there were as many ghosts there as there were on the Naihe Bridge. The same long rows of ghosts.

Through the express lane, they were soon at the front row.

They saw a huge wheel. The wheel was like a huge windmill, spinning slowly.

There were six parts on the wheel with six different wormholes. They looked like they could suck the souls out of their eyes. They felt dizzy just looking at it.

The six black holes could be put in two groups —the group on the left and the group on the right. A curved Yin and Yang line separated the two groups in the middle. “So, this is what the Six Wheels of Reincarnation look like.”

Li Nianfan gained knowledge again. “The left and right parts represent... Yin and Yang?”

White Impermanence nodded. He replied, “In a way, yes. It’s more commonly known as good and evil.”

Li Nianfan nodded and stared at two figures in front of the wheel.

The two figures were eye-catching. Li Nianfan instantly recognized them on sight. They were the Ox-Head and Horse-Face for sure.

They guarded the area and scratched their ears. They seemed to be anxious.

The Ox-Head and Horse-Face immediately came over when they saw Li Nianfan and the others. They looked excited.

Horse-Face could not wait to say, “General, what happened in our Underworld? Staying put to guard this area’s inhumane. This is torture for us.”

“Exactly! When can we get more helpers out here?!” shouted the Ox-Head. Then, he exclaimed, “The Wheel of Reincarnation has started to spin again. The effectiveness of Reincarnation’s going to increase. All we lack are helpers!

“You’re troubling us brutes by letting us decide the Reincarnation routes of the ghosts. It’s more tiring than fighting!” “Stop complaining. Who isn’t tired like a single dad or a single mom around here? I worked in multiple positions. Did I say anything about it?” The General of the Bloody Sea interrupted the two complainers. He moved aside and glared at Ox-Head and Horse-Face. He threw them hints like crazy. Then, he said in a serious tone, “These are the important guests of the Underworld. This is Mr. Li. Hurry up and greet them properly!”

‘Mr. Li?’

“That expert!”

Ox-Head and Horse-Face instantly jolted. They were nervous and excited. They felt like they were meeting their idol. They knew they were able to break their seal all because of the expert! He was the golden bigshot of the Underworld.

‘No wonder there was such a hassle just now. Even the Wheel of Reincarnation was fixed. It’s because the expert has arrived!’

'Blessing of the Underworld. This is a blessing of the Underworld!' "Mr. Li, I'm Ox-Head. Welcome to the Underworld."

"Mr. Li, I'm Horse-Face. Next time you're here in the Underworld, I've got your back!"

Li Nianfan saluted. He smiled and asked, "Pleasure to meet you two. Are you two... judging for Reincarnation?"

"Yeah. Are you interested, Mr. Li?" Ox-Head and Horse-Face lit up. They quickly jogged over. "Mr. Li, let me show you how it's done."

They immediately raised their hands and out came a small book. It was the Death Note. A calligraphy brush appeared in the other hand.

He said in a professional tone, "Next."

A dog ghost slowly walked over. Woof!

"Look, Mr. Li," said Ox-Head as he put the Death Note in front of Li Nianfan. "This indicates the judgment for the dog."

"Loyal guard dog, died defending its owner. Can be reincarnated as a Human."

The word 'can' implied that Reincarnation was all based on the decisions of Ox-Head and Horse-Face.

Ox-Head picked up the brush and drew a tick on it. The Wheel of Reincarnation spun. One of the black holes sucked the soul of that dog.

"Next."

A student appeared. He did not do much because he drank the Meng Po Soup. His mind was like a baby's.

"Look again, Mr. Li." Ox-Head kept it true. "This is the judgment of the Death Note. The small row of words at the side here are the comments and suggestions of the City Gods."

"Kind-hearted, helpful, rule-abider. A good person. Should be reincarnated as a Human."

The comments of the City Gods stated, 'This person is kind. Likes to read books. However, he felt like life is painful. Physically and mentally exhausted. Did not want to reincarnate as a Human, would rather be a fish.'

Efficult cont of Bohuld only

Ox-Head was stumped. He rubbed his horn. "This is a difficult case. There's nothing much to go on and not a lot of bonus to the personality. The student could only be reincarnated into a normal household. They didn't specify what type of fish they wanted to be either."

Li Nianfan asked curiously, "Can we find out what type of books he liked to read?"

"Not hard to find out." Ox-Head did his thing. Two more words appeared, 'Original publishing'. Li Nianfan instantly respected that. He said, "This could be a bonus."

"Thanks for the reminder, Mr. Li. I thought so, too!"

Ox-Head circled the words and added, "Shall be reincarnated into a rich family. A happy life with money and success. Death by old age while sleeping."

Chapter 366 Theoretically There Is a Pass, Trick for Food

Li Nianfan was taken aback. "You can...simply change it?"

Ox-Head replied humbly, "Just small adjustments. Not that different. I can't change a pig into a dog."

'You just changed someone's reincarnation from being born into a normal household to a rich household. You call that a small adjustment?'

“That’s more different than changing a pig into a dog!

‘Authorities who don’t understand the suffering of the common people!’

Li Nianfan changed his mind about the adjudgement position.

‘Such a cool job. I can’t believe Ox-Head and Horse-Face would complain about it. How dare they?

‘They’re blessed without knowing it. I feel so envious.’

Li Nianfan was glad that he was close with the Underworld. It was great that his afterlife would be nice.

He noticed that Jiese and the others had not spoken in a long while. They looked sad wearing their frowns. They could almost write the word ‘worry’ on their faces. They did not even dare to speak.

He instantly had an idea. He asked, “Brother Ox, tell me honestly. For these three people, how would you judge them?”

“This...”

Ox-Head looked at Yuecha and the others. He felt troubled. Then, he said softly, "Two of them killed innocent lives, another one illegally trapped souls. Those are huge sins. They might not be able to reincarnate."

That meant that they were going to the eighteen levels of Hell.

Yun Yiyi went pale. She smiled awkwardly and said, "Mr. Li, I deserve the punishment. You don't have to beg for me."

Suddenly, Jiese spoke up, "I followed her the whole time. I could've stopped her but never did. The karma of Lady Yun should be mine." Li Nianfan hurriedly interrupted the couple that was about to go all lovey-dovey. "Brother Ox, um... Can you give them a pass?"

"Theoretically, I can't," replied Ox-Head. The word 'theoretically' was crucial. As expected, the Ox said, "However, for these three, one of them set up Buddhism, one of them restored Hell, and the other fixed the Wheel of Reincarnation. These are huge achievements. I could plead for them."

Li Nianfan smiled and said, "That's great

news!"

'So-called pleading. The judgement is decided by Ox-Head the entire time.' He immediately took out his wine gourd and poured him a drink. "Oh yeah, Brother Ox, Brother Horse, this is our first time meeting.

You haven't tried my homemade brew. It's not as good as Immortal Wine but it tastes nice. Please, try it."

"Mr. Li, don't be a stranger. We don't need this hospitality because we're close friends now, right?" Ox-Head and Horse-Face said. However, their eyes were fixated on the drinks, almost popping out of their skulls.

Black and White Impermanence had not stopped bragging about how powerful the expert was since they were back. They mostly mentioned his delicious food and wine. They said it was a hundred times better than the so-called ambrosia!

Every time Ox-Head and Horse-Face heard about it, they would salivate hard and would feel hungry. They wanted nothing more but to taste it!

'Is this the expert's beautiful wine?'

They sniffed. 'Wow, what a nice smell!'

Li Nianfan smiled and said, "Precisely because we're close, I have to treat you to a drink. Don't be courteous with me."

Ox-Head and Horse-Face gulped hard. "Thank you then."

They could not wait. They took the wine glass and drank it.

“Ah-“

Beautiful wine. It was indeed beautiful wine!

They smacked their lips. The flavor was delicious and it was also beneficial for their cultivation. The wine...was from another realm.

Ox-Head and Horse-Face were instantly astounded. They respected the expert even more. They could not believe that they were back in the Underworld tasting such beautiful wine. It was unfathomable. They would not even dream of it.

Li Nianfan held the wine gourd. He smiled and said, “Come on, there’s another glass of wine after this one.”

He did not just pour wine for Ox-Head and Horse-Face. Black and White Impermanence and the others by the side got a glass each, too. Even the Onis who stood guard had their own glasses.

The Onis were already glancing in his direction. They thought they could sneak closer to smell the beautiful wine aroma. They did not expect to get a glass of wine for free. They were instantly surprised and continuously thanked him.

As for the line of ghosts, they could only watch them pitifully.

Suddenly, an elder protested, “Why don’t we get some? Spare us a drop.”

“Huh?”

Ox-Head was surprised. “This old man has such a clear state of mind. What’s going on?”

Horse-Face waved, “Looks like someone’s intelligence is still intact. Drag him out and reward him with another bowl of Meng Po Soup.”

Everyone enjoyed the beautiful grape wine. They were instantly in a better mood.

Ox-Head’s cheeks were flushed. He joyfully patted his chest and said, “Mr. Li, these three are your friends, which means they’re my friends, too. It’s not much but I’m good at helping out my friends. You can count on me!”

He immediately raised his hand. The Death Note gleamed.

The information about Yuecha appeared first. “Demon. Killed countless lives. A massive sinner. Should go to the sixteenth layer of Hell for three thousand years before being reincarnated as a pig.”

“That’s too scary. Imagine spending three thousand years in the sixteenth layer of Hell and then reincarnating as a Pig.’ “Piece of cake.” Ox-Head smiled and put the brush in his mouth to wet it with his saliva. He started to write.

“This person is regretful of past actions and created Buddhism. Guided others to be kind. Did good karma. Temporarily abolish the punishment in Hell. To be confirmed.”

Ox-Head scratched his head and said, “Mr. Li, the Hell punishment has been removed. As for Reincarnation, I’m afraid it would be a tragic life, and she might not be human.”

“Thank you so much,” said Yuecha genuinely. She paused and said, “Can you let me reincarnate into a boy?”

It seemed like she wanted to become a monk in the next life.

“Haha, easy.” Ox-Head smiled and wrote ‘Guy, male, man’.

Next up were Jiese and Yun Yiyi. They both looked nervous.

As expected, the punishment for their sins were as harsh as Yuecha’s.

Ox-Head smiled. "You two are easier to deal with. Plus, we're grateful for what you two have done for the Underworld. This will be a piece of cake."

Yun Yiyi asked excitedly, "Can you make sure we're a married couple in the next life?"

Ox-Head replied, "I can but since you both have sinned, you're destined to have troubles in your next lives." Li Nianfan smiled and said, "No worries. As long as they have a good ending in the end."

Ox-Head did not say anything else since Li Nianfan spoke up. He wrote, "Okay... Let me try."

"Relationship troubles. Every trouble they face will be harsh and brutal. An unsuccessful relationship, as if Fate keeps stopping them. However..."

Ox-Head reread the sentence. In the end, he just wrote the two words, 'Happy ending'. 'Damn, I don't care anymore. I have written down the main plot. Fate shall do as it pleases for the specific details.'

'I'm not very educated. I can only help you two this much.'

Yun Yiyi was immediately happy. She said, "Thanks, Sire Ox."

Black and White Impermanence noticed that they were done. They smiled and said, "Alright, you all can go reincarnate after drinking the Meng Po Soup."

Yuecha and the others looked at each other. They all bowed at Li Nianfan at the same time. They did not speak because words could not express their gratitude towards him.

Li Nianfan laughed. "Alright, you should be thanking the Sires of the Underworld. Live well in your next life."

He pursed his lip. He felt like something was off about that sentence.

Black and White Impermanence led the way. "Please, follow us."

Yuecha and the others naturally used the express lane of the Underworld. They did not need to line up.

They were back at the Naihe Bridge. The old granny who scooped soup was still there. She looked friendly.

She smiled at everyone as she scooped three big bowls of soup for Yuecha and the others. "Don't be courteous, drink up."

She looked at Li Nianfan and the others again. She smiled and asked, "Guests, do you want

some?”

“Hell no!” Nanan and Dragin jumped and hid behind Li Nianfan.

Ziye had to say, “Granny, stop joking.”

She smiled. She remembered that the granny would always ask her that question to scare her when she used to visit the Underworld. “Ha, it’s Little Ziye.” Meng Po looked kind and caring. “It’s been a lot of years since I last saw you. How’s the Heavenly Palace?”

Ziye looked troubled. She opened her mouth and was ready to tell Meng Po about the Heavenly Palace situation, hoping to get a solution.

“Blergh!”

Yun Yiyi suddenly vomited. She took the bowl and sniffed it when she was not ready yet. She immediately felt her stomach twist. She looked horrified.

‘Smelly and stinky. I’ll die if I drink this... thingy, right?’ She looked at Yuecha and Jiese again. The two of them had closed their eyes. They seemed to be chanting Buddhist scriptures. However, their hands that were holding the bowls were trembling.

Yun Yiyi hurriedly apologized, “Sorry, I just feel a bit... Blergh!”

Li Nianfan had to say, "Um... Granny, can I add some seasoning to the soup? To better the flavor."

Meng Po smiled and said, "If you have some, you can try adding it into the pot, Mr. Li." "Okay." Li Nianfan took out a seasoning packet that he had brought with him. He tore it open and poured half of it into the pot.

Meng Po stirred for a short while. Then, it emitted an odd aroma. The nervous ghosts suddenly scrunched up their noses. They looked at the Meng Po Soup weirdly. They might even be excited to try it.

Black and White Impermanence's gazes were fixed on the pot of Meng Po Soup, too. They had to lick their lips.

White Impermanence had to ask, "Mr. Li, what did you put in there? It smells so good!"

"Chicken essence and cumin. These two things can better flavor and smell for anything."

White Impermanence was awestruck. "Goodness, chicken essence? That's a legendary item!"

Black Impermanence looked mystified and wanted to know everything. "What kind of chicken produced this essence? I have to capture some chicken."

Meng Po started to scoop soup for the ghosts and souls again.

A middle-aged man had a bowl of Meng Po Soup in his hand but he did not drink it.

An Oni looked unhappy at that. He scolded, "What? We already made it better for you, why don't you drink it? Hurry up!"

The ghost looked like he was in pain. He said, "You don't know this, Sire. I'm in love with a girl. Our groundbreaking love is more solid than gold. The memories of us being together have been deeply etched into my mind. I once promised her that I'd never forget her."

The Oni frowned. "What are you trying to say?"

"I'm saying that one bowl of Meng Po Soup... may not be enough."

"You daring punk! You're just trying to scam us for another bowl!"

The Oni had seen through his schemes. He waved, "Fellas, give him the original version of the Meng Po Soup. Let him have it!"

Chapter 367 Splitting the Realms, Conspiracy

Yuecha and the others quickly thanked Li Nianfan again. Yun Yiyi was leaning on Jiese. They stood at the bridge to look at the view. They were publically lovey-dovey for a while before they were satisfied. They drank the Meng Po Soup and went to reincarnate.

Li Nianfan looked sentimental as they left. That goodbye was final. He wondered if he would ever see them again. Even if he did, they would not recognize each other anymore.

Black and White Impermanence moved their heads closer to the pot. They gulped and asked, "Granny, this Meng Po Soup... Would there be any issues if we drink it?"

Meng Po gave them a friendly smile and said, "Nope. Don't delay, hurry up and drink it." Black and White Impermanence were instantly disinterested. They moved away from the pot and said, "It doesn't matter. We have self-control."

Li Nianfan looked at Meng Po. He did not expect the old granny to be so evil.

"Little Ziye, how's the Heavenly Palace?"

Meng Po put down the ladle and simply passed it to an Oni. She wiped her hands and said, "Let's go. Everyone, why don't we find a place to sit? Have a chat with granny, okay?"

Li Nianfan nodded. "Sorry to intrude."

Everyone was about to head out. The Oni who took the ladle finally caved into temptation and tried the soup. Black and White Impermanence were instantly intrigued. They stared at the Oni excitedly and asked, "How is it?"

The Oni smacked his lips. He looked at Black and White Impermanence in a daze. Then, he scrunched his nose up and said, "Huh? Why's there a pot of soup here? It looks delicious." Slurp!

A moment later.

"Huh? Why's there a pot of soup here? It looks delicious."

Slurp!

"Huh? Why's there a pot of soup here? It looks delicious."

"Stop drinking it. Your brain will melt if you keep drinking."

Black and White Impermanence hurriedly stopped him. "Guards, drag him away. This comrade caved in to temptation in the end. Send him away to reincarnate."

An excellent Oni dragged him away in the blink of an eye. He left peacefully while thinking of that pot of soup. They went back to the main hall. Female ghosts immediately served them tea.

Li Nianfan naturally did not drink it. After the Meng Po Soup incident, he made a mental note to himself that he should not eat or drink...the food from the Underworld.

He took out the wine gourd and a lot of fruits. "Drink my wine, everyone. Fruits, too. I also brought tea leaves, it tastes quite nice."

"Mr. Li, I feel sorry about this," the General of the Bloody Sea apologized while he stood up to respectfully take the stuff from Li Nianfan. "You're a guest of the Underworld but I troubled you to bring your own food and wine. It's a sin, it's our fault!"

"Mr. Li, there's a serious lack of food in the Underworld. After the catastrophe, we... Sigh, let's not mention it." White Impermanence shrugged it off. "Anyhow, thank you so much for your food. We'll shamelessly take it."

"Shameless," scoffed Nanan. She also poked her tongue out at Black and White Impermanence. "Hehe..."

"Nanan, don't be rude." Li Nianfan hurriedly smacked some sense into her. He ruffled her head. The little brat did not understand the importance of civilized manners yet. It would be bad if she offended the Sires.

Everyone drank wine, ate fruits, and chatted. They were bonding. Finally, the conversation was back on the main topic. Meng Po enjoyed the tea made by Li Nianfan. She instantly felt comfortable. Even the wrinkles on her face went away. She asked again, "Little Ziye, how many people are left in the Heavenly Palace?"

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“Not much.” Ziyue shook her head. “That year, I was the youngest. My sisters and everyone else protected me. Luckily, I survived the catastrophe. Not long ago, I had the chance to return to the Heavenly Palace but I realized... everyone had been turned to stone.”

Her voice became hoarse when she talked about it. Tears were in her eyes. “As expected.” Meng Po sighed. She calmed herself down and said, “The Primordial Spirits have been sealed, permanently. It’s not hard to guess who’s able to do that.”

Ziyue was utterly nervous. She asked the most important question, “Are they salvable?”

“Too difficult.” Meng Po unconsciously looked at Li Nianfan. If the expert was willing to help, they would eventually be saved. For example, Ox-Head and Horse-Face were unsealed because of the expert. They got lucky. But of course, she could not say it.

“If I was still at my prime, I could’ve woken them up with the power of Reincarnation. It would take a long time though.” Meng Po sighed softly before she continued, “I’m just glad that it’s just a seal. It means they’re still alive and we have a chance to save them.”

Ziye sighed in relief when she heard that they were alive. It was considered good news. They could find a solution.

Li Nianfan listened to their conversation. He was intrigued. He remembered that in the legendary stories, a part of Meng Po's soul was split from the Houtu Empress. 'What if... Really?'

He had to ask, "Granny, may I know if you're the Virtuous Houtu?"

Meng Po shook her head and smiled awkwardly, "Mr. Li, as Reincarnation was shattered, the Virtuous Houtu no longer exists." 'She really was the Virtuous Houtu!'

Li Nianfan jolted. He was riled up because he was with a famous Saint!

He was prepared to meet the bigshots in his legendary stories but he did not expect to meet one so sudden. Black and White Impermanence were famous, too, but they were just errand-runners, the cameos of the fantasy realm. It felt different to meet a main character.

Li Nianfan went serious and said, "Houtu Empress, you sacrificed yourself for Reincarnation and blessed countless spirits and souls. No one would dare forget it! I respect you!"

Among all the Saints, Li Nianfan was only impressed by two of them. One of them was Houtu Empress, the other was Goddess Nuwa.

They were also the only two female Saints amongst all the Saints.

It was not an exaggeration to say that Li Nianfan grew up listening to stories of how Goddess Nuwa patched the sky and how she made humans with clay. The Humans were forever indebted to her generosity. Even Wukong was born from the stone left by Goddess Nuwa.

As for the Houtu Empress, she was one of the main characters. In the end, she had sacrificed herself for the sake of continuing Reincarnation. She also left a deep impression on Li Nianfan. Those two were his idols.

“That’s an exaggeration, Mr. Li,” chuckled Meng Po. She humbly waved it off but she could not stop smiling.

She could tell that Li Nianfan genuinely respected her. It was hard not to be happy after receiving such a great comment from the expert. The expert understood her! However, when Li Nianfan said his next sentence, she truly felt an unexpected sting in her heart.

“Houtu Empress, you must have endless Deluxe Merit!”

Meng Po gradually stopped smiling. ‘Endless my foot.

‘If this sentence was said by someone else, I would’ve believed it. But to come from you? That’s just mean.

'You have the Deluxe Merit Flesh. My Deluxe Merit compared to yours is like a strand of hair. You complimented me so much just to show off in the end. I want to cry, this is bullying!'

It was as if a rich guy told the hardworking worker, "Wow, you're so hardworking and you earned five hundred dollars. Awesome, I respect that."

Then, the rich guy ate a meal worth more than five hundred dollars...

'Was it even a compliment?

'No. I can't think about it anymore. My heart hurts.'

Ziye was more concerned with the Heavenly Palace. She continued to ask, "Granny, what happened during the catastrophe?".

Meng Po sounded sentimental. She slowly said, "About the catastrophe, I wasn't planning to talk about it. However, the Underworld's now back on track. I don't have to hide these things anymore. It's going to be a long story." Everyone went serious. They listened attentively. Meng Po picked up the kettle and refilled her cup of tea. Then, she slowly sipped on the tea and enjoyed it. Once she was satisfied with the suspense she had created, she put down her teacup and started the story.

"Buddhism was destroyed in the first place because someone incredible suddenly appeared in the realm. He was more powerful than the Saints!"

Meng Po looked scared. She took a deep breath and said in a low voice, "This person also caused the First Tribulation of the Dragons and the Phoenixes, His name was Luohou. He's on the same level as the Buddha."

The Fire Phoenix slightly furrowed her brows. She asked, "He caused the First Tribulation of the Dragons and the Phoenixes?"

She had to look at Li Nianfan. Not long ago, Li Nianfan talked about the First Tribulation of the Dragons and the Phoenixes in his stories. He claimed that the First Tribulation was caused by war among the three species. The two stories did not add up. "Don't look at me, Houtu Empress is indeed right." Li Nianfan shrugged. "The fight of the three species was the main reason, but secretly, Luohou was the one who instigated it. Luohou was sneaky and wanted nothing more than to cause havoc. It was beneficial to him that more people died."

Li Nianfan finally pieced together the last plot piece when he heard the name Luohou. Demons were created by Luohou. Lawless seemed powerful but in reality, he was just a chess piece for Luohou.

He remembered that Luohou had two famous items. One of them was the God Killing Spear. The other one was the Destructive Black Lotus. He was a bigshot in the same era as Hongjun.

Meng Po was excited. She asked, "Mr. Li, you know Luohou? What exactly is he?"

She was an ancestor but she only appeared after the realms split. She did not know what happened.

Li Nianfan groaned for a moment. He pursed his lips and replied, "I...will have to start from when the realms split apart. Of course, this is just a story I heard. The accuracy of it is yet to be confirmed."

“We get it.” Everyone nodded at the same time. They had oranges in their hands. They were excited to listen to his stories while eating them.

‘The expert’s going to start storytime. Take notes, everybody.’ ‘The splitting of the realms, how majestic!’

Everyone slowed their breaths down as their hearts clenched.

Meng Po was more excited than the others. That was probably the story of her father! She did not expect that the expert was from the same era as her father. No, perhaps he was someone more ancient than her father!

‘Scary, terrifying!’

Li Nianfan cleared his throat. He said, “So, the world was still in chaos before the realms were split apart. The chaos birthed three thousand Demon Gods. Each Demon God represented a

power!

“Pangu, Luohou, and Hongjun were amongst the three thousand Demon Gods. One day, Pangu, with the Power of Law, achieved maximum cultivation. He was planning to split the realms apart to create a new world. He wanted to level up his cultivation. However, it was opposed by all the other Demon Gods,” Li

Nianfan said casually. He did not speak in a dramatic tone. However, everyone could not help but visualize it. They were immersed in the scary story.

Li Nianfan continued, "Pangu was powerful. When he split the realms apart, he was attacked by the other three thousand Demon Gods, but he single-handedly killed most of them!"

Meng Po asked nervously, "Mr. Li, what happened next?"

Li Nianfan shook his head and said with pity, "It was too bad that Pangu was exhausted. He could only choose to transform his body into a part of the new world. His mind created the mountains, lands, lakes, and oceans. His Primordial Spirit transformed into the Three Qings, which are also the three Saints. His body and blood transformed into the Twelves Ancestors, one of which was the Houtu Empress. The rest was transformed into countless Heavenly Spiritual Treasures."

Aside from Meng Po, everyone's eyes were wide. They felt their skin crawl and had goosebumps all over.

They had to look around. Everything around them was created by Pangu. They had the utmost respect for him while also being fearful.

'Splitting the realms and creating all sorts of lives. What an incredible existence!'

"The realm was created...by a person." Nanan gasped. She looked awestruck. "That's so awesome."

“Pangu was naturally powerful. His abilities, state of mind, and personality were awesome. You could say he was born to create realms. It’s a pity that...”

“What?”

“It’s a pity that someone exploited his work.” Li Nianfan shrugged it off. He was slightly emotional as he said, “Pangu created a new world by sacrificing his body. The new world was like a newborn baby. The three thousand Demon Gods were not all dead yet, so, of course, they started to fight for power to rule the world.”

Meng Po felt her heart sink. She realized something. She asked in a low voice, “Mr. Li, are you referring to Hongjun and Luohou?”

“Not just Hongjun and Luohou. However, I guess only the two of them managed to live until now,” Li Nianfan said as he nodded. “Hongjun’s the bigger winner. He cultivated into a Buddha.” Meng Po scolded, “That’s the result of stealing father’s work. He’s just a thief! It’s a shame that I didn’t know that in the past. Otherwise, I would’ve fought him!”

She felt sad when she thought of her brothers. Back when it was the prime age of the Twelve Ancestors, she could have fought him. However...she had nothing left.

Li Nianfan said, “It’s normal that you didn’t know about it. He didn’t dare to let you all know. He also tried to weaken your powers. After all, you’re all made from Pangu. A reincarnation of Pangu.”

Meng Po’s eyes widened at that. She was mind blown. She sat in place, dumbfounded.

Usually, the words of an outsider could snap a person out of it!

“The First Tribulation of the Dragons and the Phoenixes, the Cultivators and Demons War, and the Power Seal Tribulation. I get it now, I see!”

All the creatures, including Dragons, Phoenixes, cultivators, or even Demons were transformed from Pangu. Hongjun schemed, instigating the Pangu reincarnations to kill each other. They weakened each other and Hongjun simply waited to collect the benefits.

In the end, he successfully did it. Not only did he succeed, he also took in the Three Qings as his disciples so he could have all the power to himself. It implied that he basically stole everything created by Pangu!

Chapter 368 Heaven Is Failing and the Source of Catastrophe

Meng Po frowned. She looked helpless and sad. “Damn!”

Everyone else looked shocked with wide eyes and opened mouths. They could not snap out of it.

They felt like they had just heard something incredible.

They still had not figured out what happened in between the stories yet but... He split the realms apart, created a new world, and got knocked off by others. The phrase ‘secret villain’ described Hongjun the best. They truly felt the harsh and cruel reality of the world.

‘Too scary!’

‘The fights between big shots are too scary!’

The Fire Phoenix had a complex look. She thought the Dragons, Phoenixes, and Kirins were the natural-born species of the realm. She did not expect that in the end, they were all chess pieces. Even her ancestors were tricked.

Her ancestors were one with Heaven. Did he rule Heaven at that time?

Li Nianfan continued, “Hongjun was against every species made by Pangu. However, the world was transformed from Pangu and it isn’t perfect. Therefore, regardless of the Three Qings, or your Reincarnation, it maintains the world. It’s the foundation that keeps the world running. He can’t kill you all to extinction.”

Moreover, Heaven was not perfect either. Hongjun had no choice but to go along with it because he did not want to be limited. He did not want to lose his freedom.

Everyone nodded simultaneously. They looked like they gained some knowledge. “I see.” “Alright, that’s the end of the story,” said Li Nianfan. He looked at Meng Po.

That was a hint... It was her turn to tell her story.

Li Nianfan was curious as to how the catastrophe happened.

Meng Po took the hint. She said, “Thanks, Mr. Li, for telling the story. You helped me understand a lot. Otherwise, I’m afraid I still would’ve been fooled until the day I die. Let me finish my story from earlier...

“After Buddhism was wiped out. Hongjun gathered everyone and had a meeting at the Zixiao Palace. The future was discussed. Six words summarized their discussion, ‘Heaven is failing, the Absolute Era!’”

‘Heaven is failing’ meant that Heaven had limited resources or abilities. There would be more limits and troubles.

The meaning of ‘the Absolute Era’ spoke for itself.

Li Nianfan frowned and thought about the six words. In other words, it probably meant that the world was about to go downhill, informing everyone to be prepared.

He mumbled, “Incoming chaos...”

Meng Po sighed and said, “Yeah, once the news got out, it caused chaos indeed.”

Dragin was puzzled. “Brother, what’s the meaning of those six words? Why would it cause chaos?”

Li Nianfan explained, “The actual scheme... was to affect the minds. Once the minds of the people were messed up, everything else would be messed up, too. Hence, chaos ensued.”

He was used to the modern world so he knew that words in themselves had power!

It was very scary!

Naturally, any ordinary person had no power in saying that. However, it was said by a bigshot so it was impactful.

It was like hearing a super billionaire say the economy was failing in a very formal and public event. Naturally, it would cause chaos in the stock market.

How badly could words affect the results?

Everyone would quote the super billionaire and follow him. Everyone would do something about it, especially the other bigshots. They would want to protect themselves. Thus, chaos would ensue.

Meng Po nodded. “His words made everyone anxious, especially the Heavenly Palace and the Underworld. Every species and sect were scared.”

'No wonder.

'No wonder it was named the Absolute Era. Anyone could publically harm the Underworld and the Heavenly Palace. We even had internal problems.

'A lot of bigshots had that mentality where they'd rather sacrifice other cultivators than their own. They wiped out the other sects to ensure the safety of their own sects.

'Hongjun! Truly Hongjun!

'It wasn't even a conspiracy. He just sat there and watched it all unfold. He tricked everyone with his words.

'Of course, maybe he meant it when he said that it was going to be the Absolute Era. However, he was most probably trying to instigate things.

'The rest is history. There must be all sorts of scheming, fighting, and tribulations after that.

'However...'

Li Nianfan frowned and started to think.

'Hongjun would be the biggest winner if nothing unexpected happened. What's in it for him?

'More straightforwardly, is it beneficial for him to rule the world?

"The plans of a bigshot aren't that shallow.

'What was Luohou's role in the story then? There's no way he wasn't connected to Hongjun.

'There's a second possibility but it's a stretch. Perhaps Hongjun was never scheming. Perhaps he was just sitting there, chilling and not participating.

'Whatever. I won't think about it anymore, what does it have to do with me anyway?

'I have the golden touch and I'm a Deluxe Merit Saint. Who would try to hurt me? As for my capabilities, I'm just an ordinary man. I can't do anything and I'm not a threat to the big shots.

'I'll just be a nice guest. Live life leisurely in a simple way.'

Dragin and Nanan were kind of confused. The others were shocked. They gasped.

Meng Po sighed softly. She said, “Thankfully, after the catastrophe, our Underworld managed to get back on track again. However, it’s a shame that we lack workers. It’s a troubling concern!”

She glanced at Li Nianfan. She was trying to find out if the expert had anyone to recommend. They would hire them for sure. After all, the expert single-handedly brought back the Underworld. They wished the expert could recommend someone.

In that case, the Underworld would have a closer bond with the expert.

Li Nianfan did not say anything.

He could not interfere with those kinds of matters, especially the hiring of workers. It was the privacy of the expert. He could not intervene unless it was necessary. It was a pity that their friends were not dead yet. Otherwise, they could have told them, “Go ahead and die. Our Underworld’s hiring. Say hi and we’ll get you a position.”

Everyone finally figured out what started the catastrophe. They felt emotional.

Ziye looked down. She felt like it was now harder to revive the Heavenly Palace. She was in a daze and she did not know what to do.

White Impermanence said invitingly, "Mr. Li, it's getting late. How about you stay at the Underworld for a few days? We'll provide you with the best service and the most comfortable place of stay."

'Yeah right, service and nice environment in the Underworld?

'I can accept the female ghosts. They might be ghosts and they're beautiful. But a comfortable place to stay...? How can it be comfortable?

'I don't have weird likings like staying in the Underworld.'

Li Nianfan shook his head and smiled without hesitation. He said, "Ha, thanks for the consideration, but I'm not used to sleeping in the Underworld."

"Too bad." Black and White Impermanence shook their heads.

Li Nianfan stood up. He saluted and said, "Thanks for everything today, everyone. I shall leave now."

He visited the Underworld and gained a lot of knowledge. He also perfectly helped Yuecha and the others. It was all thanks to his cultivator friends.

The General of the Bloody Sea laughed and said, "You're welcome, Mr. Li. Our Underworld isn't much, but one of our best qualities is our hospitality for our guests." Meng Po said passionately, "Mr. Li, you're welcome to swing by next time!"

After a while of chatting, Black and White Impermanence opened the Underworld Gates and they returned to the Immortal Realm. It was much easier to return from the Underworld because they could use any one of the City God Temples as a location. They were directly brought back to the City God Temple of the Fallen Town.

It was fast and convenient. Li Nianfan had a new idea.

That was a Teleportation Spell. If he was ever in a hurry to go somewhere, he could just use the Underworld as a transit. It would be far more convenient.

Of course, it was just a thought. He would never do that.

Soon, it was nighttime.

The Fallen Town's City God received a message. He was waiting at the City God Temple.

He was an elder named Zhou. He said with respect, "Greetings to the Impermanence Sires, greetings to Mr. Li."

Li Nianfan had heard of the elder before. He smiled and said, "Hello, Elder Zhou."

Black and White Impermanence nodded. They hinted at the elder with a polite warning, “Fallen Town’s a beautiful place. You were able to become a City God here. Your future’s bright, so keep up the good work! Don’t relax! Otherwise, we’ll make your life a living Hell!” They sent a clear message for the elder. The expert stayed nearby, and he personally created the Fallen Town’s City God Temple. It was a place of Luck. If they could, Black and White Impermanence would have pushed the elder out and become the City Gods themselves.

“Yes, I got it.” The Fallen Town’s City God kept nodding with seriousness.

White Impermanence was taken aback by something. He said, “Yo, it’s late at night but it’s still so crowded here.”

The Fallen Town’s City God smiled awkwardly. He shook his head and said, “No, Impermanence Sires. We ran into a big problem around here.” Li Nianfan frowned. He asked, “What happened?”

“Sigh, we can’t fish at the nearby lakes!”

The Fallen Town’s City God was troubled. “Not sure what happened but there are always Demons fighting in the ocean and the lakes. Every time we go out to fish, we’d see crabs and lobsters as tall as half a human fighting each other. They’d turn the tides and cause a lot of water-related disasters for us. The people are helpless so they’ve been coming to beg for my help. However, I’m not that great of a cultivator. I can’t do anything about it either.”

Chapter 369 Sea Eyes, Where Is the Promising Tsunami?

“The Demons are fighting?” Everyone was shocked.

Black and White Impermanence were slightly curious. They asked, "Usually, big battles are related to war. How did this happen? What did the sea creature do?"

Small fights erupting among the demons were unavoidable. However, group battles were quite rare.

The Fallen Town's City God smiled awkwardly and shook his head. "That's not all. The water-related disasters are worse. Although there wasn't a tsunami, a lot of nearby places were flooded. The fishermen's boats can't sail out to fish for sure."

White Impermanence nodded and said, "These things indeed can't be helped. I'm afraid you'll have to rely on the other cultivators for help."

The Fallen Town's City God said, "Cultivators tried to help but they were soon chased away. I'm afraid this isn't an easy case."

Black and White Impermanence frowned. "This... Something's wrong. There's most probably an internal fight under the sea."

They were deities of the Underworld. Hence, they were only concerned with the Underworld and the ghosts. They did not care much about water-related disasters, and they could not help either.

Li Nianfan smiled and saluted, "Thanks for the escort, Impermanence Sires. Do you want to have a drink at my place?"

“No, no, Mr. Li. We shall leave. If you need anything at all, just contact us through any City God Temple. Feel free to do so, you don’t have to be courteous with us,” Black and White Impermanence saluted. They could tell that Li Nianfan was just trying to sound polite. They wanted to drink but they had to be considerate. Li Nianfan said in a pitiful tone, “Too bad then. Next time, next time!”

They walked out from the City God Temple. Li Nianfan looked at Dragin. He asked curiously, “Dragin, do you know what’s going on? Has this happened before?”

Dragin had a rich family in the Eastern Sea. They had endless seafood. They must be affected by the underwater war.

Dragin tilted her head. She seemed to be thinking with her little head. Then, she shook her head. She worriedly said, “No, but my father should be fine, right? If he’s there, how would the Eastern Sea be in chaos?”

She knew that her father would not allow that to happen. After all, the expert was living nearby. Allowing this to happen would affect the expert.

Li Nianfan said, “Let’s go check it out. It won’t take long anyway. It’ll also satisfy my curiosity.”

He yawned and repressed his sleepiness. He rode on his clouds with everyone else on it. They headed to the Clear Moon Lake.

He had a disciplined routine, but that was the first time he stayed up late. He was not used to it.

However, he had to check it out for Dragin's sake and for the nearby surroundings.

Soon, a golden cloud appeared at the Clear Moon Lake.

The Clear Moon Lake was quiet under the moonlight. The color of the water was darker than the land. It looked like a bottomless lake. The soft ripples reflected under the moonlight.

The surface of the lake was very calm and quiet.

They continued forward. Suddenly, they saw a sudden commotion at the lake. Two figures jumped out of the lake with their claws up high. They were having a standoff. Li Nianfan focused and saw a big Hairy Crab Demon and a Flower Crab Demon. The two Crab Demons were significantly larger than usual, especially their claws. Their claws were trained to be huge. It was almost larger than their bodies. Moreover, they were shiny and sharp with jagged teeth.

'If they pinch me with those... I don't dare to imagine it.'

Li Nianfan licked his lips. He secretly said, "Such a big claw. Must be filled with meat. It'd definitely be more satisfying than biting on a drumstick."

Dragin said, "Brother, the opponent of that Hairy Crab's not from the Eastern Sea. I've never even seen it before." "That's a Flower Crab." Li Nianfan analyzed. "It seems the foreign Demons are fighting the

local Demons.” They ignored the two Demons that were fighting with their claws while salivating. They continued forward.

They were soon at the sea.

It was much noisier than at the Clear Moon Lake. They could hear waves splashing from afar. The waves kept splashing with each moment. Waves as high as three meters would appear from time to time. It was highly unusual.

Soon, a body was washed up ashore by the waves.

It was the dead body of a huge King Crab. Although it was dead, it was still fresh.

Li Nianfan said in a pained voice, “Get it out of the water, we can still eat it. Don’t let it die in vain.”

Nanan said at the side, “I know, I know, this is called making death worth it!”

The tides grew stronger as they got closer. The dead bodies of the sea creatures started to increase. There were so many bodies that Li Nianfan did not even have the time to pick all of them. He only picked up the big ones. As for the little ones, he could only let them be.

Meanwhile, they witnessed all sorts of seafood battles.

The battle of the Australian Lobster and the Shrimp. The battle of the Salmon and the Tuna. The battle of the Squid and the Cuttlefish...

It was the battle of the seafood. The sea was in turmoil from all their stirring. Li Nianfan felt very hungry watching them. He could not help but imagine that the sea was a big pot of soup. 'This pot of seafood soup...delicious and fresh!'

Daji suddenly pointed in a direction and said, "Look at that fish. It's so colorful."

Li Nianfan was also surprised. He exclaimed, "Yo, that's a Saddle Grouper. And it's a Demon!"

The fish was huge. It was covered in yellow dots with obvious black stripes. It was an extremely expensive fish in his past realm. Ordinary people could not afford it, especially when it was that huge.

It wiggled its tail in the sea, swimming incredibly fast as it kept changing its course. It shot a strong water pillar against a King Crab. The King Crab was hit, causing it to faint in the water.

"Its squirting skill's so powerful!"

Li Nianfan exclaimed. Then, he added, "This fish would be delicious as sashimi."

“I’ll get it right away!” Dragin raised her arm and cast a spell. A water ball instantly entrapped the Saddle Grouper. It slowly rose to the air.

The Saddle Grouper was being boastful at that moment. Then, it suddenly noticed that it had been lifted above the water’s surface and was still rising in the air. It looked bewildered.

‘When did I learn how to fly?’

Nanan noticed something, too. She said, “Brother Nianfan, look over there. That crab’s super huge!”

“That’s the Red King Crab.” Li Nianfan was like a walking encyclopedia. He simply introduced, “This crab’s one of the biggest crabs in the world. It’s a fighter, but of course, its delicious meat is at the top of the list.”

Dragin said, “Can’t miss out on that. Get it!”

“Wow, that fish’s full of spikes.”

“Get it.”

“Wow...”

“Get it.”

Everyone went ahead catching the seafood as Li Nianfan introduced the various meats of all sorts of seafood.

The seafood battle suddenly became a delicious seafood auction. In the end, the Seafood Demons noticed them. They panicked and did not dare to fight with all their might anymore. They were scared of being noticed.

Li Nianfan suddenly snapped out of it. “Oh yeah, we aren’t here for seafood.”

Daji and the others stopped searching. Daji said, “This situation’s highly unnatural. Demons from other regions likely invaded the Eastern Sea. And...the battle’s still ongoing.”

Boom!

Suddenly, they heard an explosion from afar. A water pillar soared to the sky like a giant dragon. It was hundreds of meters tall. The surface of the water shook as the waves gushed like crazy.

Boom! Boom!

Several explosions followed the first. It caused huge splashes in the sea.

Splash!

The sea was affected by that. Angry waves overlapped with one another.

Dragin hurriedly said, "That's my father fighting with someone."

"We have to go check it out."

Li Nianfan looked serious. At that point, it would eventually cause a tsunami and it might affect the Fallen Town.

Everyone sped up and headed toward the direction of the explosions.

Daji cast a spell. A blue light shield was formed around everyone.

As they got closer, the Demons started to look different. They saw Demons with human parts. Some Demons even flew into the air, wanting to attack Li Nianfan and the others.

However, they were either turned to ice pops or burned to ash before they could get close. It was inevitable.

Meanwhile, at the border of the sea. A black hole formed in the deep central part of the sea.

The black hole was huge and extremely creepy. It was overlapped with the seawater but it did not blend in with the sea. Nothing was covering it either. It was oddly embedded in the sea.

If one were to look closely, one would realize that the black hole had a pearl lying in it. A light blue pearl spun slowly with a shiny gleam.

Two figures stood before the black hole. They were slightly panting while looking serious.

They were Ao Cheng and Ao Yun.

Two figures stood in front of them. One of them was an elder with not much hair. His hair was white. He had a single horn on his forehead. He placed his hands behind him and looked at Ao Cheng and Ao Yun calmly.

The other figure was a middle-aged man. His face was gaunt with a coldness to it. He slightly raised his eyebrow and smirked, "Incredible, so incredible. Ao Yun, you're not dead yet?"

They thought their mission would be a success. They even thought they could have easily killed the Eastern Sea Dragon King. However, they did not expect the sudden change.

Ao Yun was not dead!

The Dragon Killer Poison Bug had been untreatable for countless years. Ao Yun did lose an arm. However, his survival could be described as miraculous.

“You Dragon scums aren’t dead yet, so how can I die?”

Ao Yun coldly stared at them. He looked angry. He lifted his remaining arm and out came a Purple Golden Hammer. Electrical current was coursing through it.

Ao Cheng questioned them in a deep voice, “Ao Feng, why did you betray the Dragon kind?”

“You’re all too ignorant. We Southern Sea Dragons didn’t betray you. We’re simply going along with the future, fighting for the survival of the Dragon kind,” Ao Feng said and shook his head. Then, he said, “If I were to be like you guys, we’d all be dead in the end. Us Southern Sea Dragons being alive is better than the extinction of all Dragons.”

Ao Yun mockingly laughed and said, “You betrayed your own kind to survive. Do you have no shame? You’d be better off dead.”

“You’re a royal prince. Aren’t you embarrassed by what you said?” Ao Cheng saw through it all. “You Southern Sea Dragons just want to rule the sea for yourselves.”

Ao Feng said confidently, “There’s no use for talking. Move, I might spare your lives.”

Ao Cheng looked serious. He yelled, “The Sea Eye has been protected by the Dragons for generations. Are you crazy? How dare you?!”

“Protect? Have you two lost your minds? The realm has changed. What’s worth protecting?”

Ao Feng sounded pissed. Then, he said in a low and condescending voice, “Ao Cheng, Ao Yun, don’t say I didn’t give you a chance. The realm’s very different from what it once was. This is the Dragons’ chance to rise to the top again! This Dragon Soul Pearl given to us by our ancestors is our chance!”

Ao Yun said with seriousness, “Once the Dragon Soul Pearl’s gone, the Sea Eye would lose control. Endless seawater would spread to the land. It would drown half of the realm. People will suffer. Do you think we’ll allow

it?”

“Ridiculous. We’re Dragons. Why should we protect the weak Humans?” Ao Feng looked at Ao Yun and Ao Cheng with contempt. “The Heavenly Palace is gone. The realm won’t look out for us, and nobody would care if our people are all killed! The Southern Sea Dragons will have the Dragon Soul Pearl!”

The elder at the side said, “Prince, we’ve already wasted a lot of time. There’s no use talking to them.”

“Ha, anyone who gets in my way will die!” Ao Feng growled and reached out with his hands. A crystal spear immediately appeared in it.

The spear launched forth like a dragon. It immediately caused endless waves. A giant water dragon appeared.

Ao Yun leaped to the air with his Purple Golden Hammer. Electricity surrounded him and attacked the water dragon on its head.

Kaboom!

Countless strikes of lightning went towards Ao Feng and that elder!

Roar!

The elder sneered. He transformed into a hundred-meter-long Black Dragon. It looked cold and prestigious. He flicked his tail and the sea was instantly turned over.

Its huge claws lashed at Ao Yun while its tail flicked toward Ao Cheng!

Ao Cheng and Ao Yun had no choice. They also transformed into Dragons. They roared and fought the elder.

The three Dragons spun around in the sea. They flew out of the sea without casting spells. Their bodies clashed and affected everything else around them.

Explosions ensued.

Black Dragon said, “Prince, I’ll delay them. You go get the Dragon Soul Pearl!”

“Yeah, right. You?” Ao Cheng scoffed and flicked his tail. He was going to attack Ao Feng.

The Black Dragon opened its mouth and out came a golden mark. The golden mark expanded, and soon, it was the size of a mountain. It separated the seawater, weighing down on Ao Cheng! Ao Cheng was blocked by that attack. He was also stuck and could not move.

Ao Yun did not look happy at all. He wanted to stop Ao Feng but was busy with the Black Dragon.

Ao Feng sneered at Ao Yun and Ao Cheng. He walked freely towards the Sea Eye like a champion. Soon, he was in front of the light blue pearl.

Ao Cheng was very nervous. He scolded, “Ao Feng, think about it. Once you get it out, the consequences would be unbearable! You can’t take it, you really can’t take it. Stop, listen to me!”

It was a serious sin to upset the expert!

Of course, Ao Feng did not care.

“Humans have been the elites for so many years. It’s time they stop being the main focus. Today, I, Ao Feng, will take the pearl and drown the Humans! Dragons will rise again. This will be a legendary moment in Dragon history. It’ll be passed down for generations to

come.”

He looked excited. He grinned and reached out without hesitation. His arm transformed into a Dragon claw and he took the Dragon Soul Pearl.

“No,”

Ao Cheng and Ao Yun looked horrified. They used all their powers to get rid of the Black Dragon. They swam toward the Sea Eye as fast as they could. Ao Cheng said in a pained tone, “Brother Yun, goodbye. I’ll block the Sea Eye with my body. The Dragons are going to rely on you from now on.”

“What nonsense are you talking about? I’m fatter than you. I’m naturally the better choice to block the Sea Eye. Move aside, don’t get in my way!”

“Fat?! You only have one arm, how are you going to block it? Hurry up and move!” The two Dragons did not budge. They surrounded the black hole and were ready to die.

Ao Feng held the Dragon Soul Pearl and mockingly laughed at Ao Cheng and Ao Yun. “So touching, you two fools. Hahaha...”

However, his laughter gradually froze and sounded awkward. Then, it vanished.

He stared at the Sea Eye, then looked at the Dragon Soul Pearl in his hand. He looked confused.

‘Sea Eye, buddy, what’s going on with you?’

‘Where’s the tsunami as promised?’

‘Is it broken?’

Ao Feng and Ao Yun laid on top of the Sea Eye. They were also stumped. They all looked at each other.

‘Perhaps this is a fake Sea Eye, or maybe... that’s a fake Dragon Soul Pearl?’

Chapter 370 Dragons... Shall Not Be Slaves

Suddenly, the sea was slowly split into two. A path was revealed.

At the end of the path was a golden light. Ao Cheng and Ao Yun were taken aback. They widened their Dragon eyes and opened their mouths. They stared at it dumbfoundedly.

“That... That’s...!

Their hearts started to tremble.

They were too familiar with the golden light. It was like early morning sunlight that slashed through the dark night. It appeared suddenly.

Ao Cheng and Ao Yun rubbed their eyes and looked again. They instantly felt a warmth in their hearts. They teared up. ‘He’s here. The expert’s here!’

Ao Feng and the Black Dragon were stumped. They also stared at the golden light with wide eyes. They felt like it was an incoming enemy.

‘Deluxe Merit?’

‘Someone rode in on a Deluxe Merit Cloud?’

They were utterly confused. They expected someone would own Deluxe Merit in the Immortal Realm.
‘But... So, what?’

‘Would the Sea Eye be threatened by Deluxe Merit when it explodes? Obviously not.’

Ao Feng had to shake the Dragon Soul Pearl in his hand. He triple-confirmed that it was real. The Sea Eye was also real. ‘Why won’t it work? Is it out of water?’

‘It doesn’t make sense.’

Li Nianfan arrived and saw the three Dragons.

A ferocious Black Dragon stared at him. Two other Dragons were lying on a black hole. They were also staring at him.

A middle-aged man stood by the side with a big pearl bead in his hand. The smile on his face seemed awkward. He must be the one who laughed out loud previously.

“Cover me!” Li Nianfan backed away as he reminded everyone.

It was the first time he saw Dragons but he was used to the Immortal Realm so he was not too scared and shocked.

It was obvious that they were fighting.

The battle stopped because Li Nianfan suddenly arrived.

The two Dragons who laid on the Sea Eye leaped up and transformed back into Ao Cheng and Ao Yun. They saluted Li Nianfan and said, “Mr. Li.”

“Brother Ao.” Li Nianfan sighed in relief. Then, he groaned for a moment. He said, “You two are Dragons, right?”

Their family name was Ao. That was the name of Dragons in legendary stories. Li Nianfan pretended not to notice it before, but he just saw them in their Dragon forms so he was able to confirm his theory.

‘They’re Dragons, why would they claim to be Carp Demons? What kind of weird hobby is that?’

“Yes... We’re Dragons,” stuttered Ao Cheng. Then, he sighed and said, “But it’s not wrong to say that we’re Carps. Apart from the ancestral Dragons, most Dragons were Carps who leaped through the Dragon Door. We don’t want to admit it but our origins can be traced back to a Carp.”

"I see." Li Nianfan nodded. He was familiar with the story.

The story of the Carp leaping through the Dragon Door. It was a gift from the Dragons. The Dragons realized that the Carps were highly compatible with their bloodline. They wanted to increase the Dragon population so they blessed a Carp, helping it transform into a Dragon.

It was also common among Kirins and Phoenixes.

After all, those three species were extremely powerful. They were born from the realm, which was why they were difficult to populate. They had to do that to prevent extinction and continue their bloodline.

'Otherwise, why would Dragons in legendary stories be so weak?

'Nezha learned a few tricks and was able to conquer the Third Prince of the Dragons. The Dragon Kings were practically useless.

'Ancestral Dragons were very powerful. They only became weak because of this.'

Li Nianfan was instantly impressed by Ao Cheng 'He was already a Dragon but he didn't forget his roots. He was humble and identified himself as a Carp. How amazing, not a lot of people can do that.

'If it was anybody else, they wouldn't admit that they were a Carp. Any mention of being a Carp would be unacceptable to them.' "Nonsense!" Ao Feng shouted by the side. He looked at Ao Cheng with contempt and scolded, "We're Dragons. How can we be compared to puny Carps? Your words are blasphemous! You don't deserve to call yourself a Dragon!" Li Nianfan looked at Ao Feng. He was the opposite example.

Ao Cheng sneered and said calmly, "Ignorant fool. You know nothing!"

"I know nothing? Haha..."

Ao Feng was so angry that he started to laugh like he heard the funniest joke. "Ao Cheng, are you serious? As a person... No, wait, as a Dragon, coming from Carps are in the past. A Dragon's a Dragon! You keep looking back to the past, which is why you're destined to be a failure!

"We Southern Sea Dragons always want more. This Dragon Soul Pearl's the first step to our improvement! Just you wait, we'll become the true ancestral Dragons soon!"

"Ha, ignorant," Ao Cheng said the same thing. "You know nothing!"

He watched Ao Feng brag with calmness in his eyes. He almost wanted to laugh.

"There are some things that I can't tell you to your face. Don't mention being a Carp, even if I was an Earthworm, my future's still brighter than yours!

'Do you know who this is beside me? Our real ancestral Dragon's staying in his backyard.

"The expert's right in front of you but you don't recognize him. On top of that, you're even bragging. Sigh, ridiculous. Ignorance is such a scary thing.' The Black Dragon transformed into human form and landed next to Ao Feng. He reminded him in a low voice, "Prince, stop wasting time with them. We got the Dragon Soul Pearl. Time to split!"

He felt mentally exhausted.

He was looking at Daji, the Fire Phoenix, and Ziye, alarmed. He could tell from their aura that they were Taiyi Golden Immortals. They were in serious danger.

'You're not running. Instead, you have time to brag about your future. Are you out of your mind?'

Ao Feng finally caught on. His face fell and he silently nodded. "You're right.

"Ao Cheng, go ahead and be a Carp Demon. We won't stay around to entertain you anymore!"

He sneered while transforming into a Dragon. He swam away along with the elder.

“Where are you going?” Ao Cheng and Ao Yun yelled at the same time. They also transformed into Dragons and chased after them.

Ziye furrowed her brows. She soared to the air and shouted, “Mr. Li, the Sea Eye’s very important. I’ll go and help!”

“I’ll go, too!” The Fire Phoenix flapped her wings and flew at full speed! She could finally fight a Dragon. She was overjoyed and very excited.

Daji did not go. She stayed with Li Nianfan.

Li Nianfan also followed them but he was slow. He kept a safe distance at all times. “Daji, let’s find a safe and nice spot to watch the battle.”

Kaboom!

The four Dragons soared out from the sea. They caused a huge wave. Huge splashes were made. It was a majestic sight along with the Dragons.

Roar!

The Dragons struggled and crashed into each other. They spat out all sorts of spells with their mouths. The sea was turned into a chaotic battlefield.

The people and the cultivators could hear explosions and roars from miles away. It made them uneasy and anxious.

“Ao Cheng, you dare attack us?” Ao Feng did not look happy at all. He nervously swerved and said, “My father’s still alive and he’s a Daluo Golden Immortal. You dare hurt me?!”

Ao Cheng smiled coldly. He slapped him in the face with his tail, “Mentioning daddy because you can’t win against me? The Dragon Ancestor’s still alive. Should I mention the Ancestor, too?”

Ao Feng scolded, “I’m being serious! What nonsense are you talking about?”

“The Dragon Ancestor’s alive? You think I’d believe that nonsense?”

Suddenly, a light slashed through the sky with a shriek. It went straight to Ao Feng! Ziyue said in a cold voice, “Put down the Dragon Soul Pearl!”

Ao Feng kept finding chances to escape. “Ha, no way!”

“Just kill them!” The Fire Phoenix had a rope in her hand. She tossed it at them and the rope slithered towards them like a snake. It elongated, reaching for Ao Feng.

Ao Feng was instantly scared into a deranged state. He exclaimed, "The Immortal Trap Rope?!"

The Black Dragon puffed up its body and knocked the Immortal Trap Rope away. It used its Dragon body and blocked everyone.

It spat out a big golden mark. The mark formed a huge mountain that fell on everyone.

The Black Dragon yelled, "Prince, go. Leave me!"

"Alright, good luck. I'll come back and avenge you!"

The voice seemed to come from a faraway distance. The Black Dragon turned to look and realized Ao Feng had already fled. Ao Feng wagged his tail without looking back.

Suddenly, the Black Dragon felt wronged. Misery flashed through his eyes. He looked at everyone and expanded his body. His power started to boil as he yelled, "You're not going to succeed even if I die!"

"Come on, come at me! I'm going to self-implode! Haha-" He struggled and roared, puffing up into a ball. He bit down with determination, feeling righteous with his last shred of dignity and pride.

'Dragons... Shall not be slaves!

The Black Dragon glanced at everyone. All of a sudden, the golden light appeared. He instantly felt his heart thump.

He took a deep breath and went over with his ball-like body. He told Li Nianfan, "Sir, I'm going to self-implode. It'll be a mighty explosion. How about...you step further aside?"

Li Nianfan shook his head and suggested with kindness, "No, don't self-implode. It'd be a waste of your body of Dragon meat, right? Look on the bright side, don't be so extreme."

The Black Dragon turned purple. He shivered and almost spat out blood. In the end, he deflated like a balloon.

He accepted his fate with tears streaming down his face, "Fine. Please, make it fast..."