

Carefree 311

Chapter 311: Green Fish

Night fell.

The Golden Court Lake sparkled under the moonlight. There were only a few boats berthed ashore that had lamps still lit up.

There was no wind, however, a small boat was floating by itself on the lake. It was a unique sight.

On the boat, there was a gorgeous young lady clad in chiffon. However, her expression was cold as ice and she seemed different from normal people.

"Since I came over personally, why does the Dragon God not want to meet me?"

The lady let out a quiet sigh at an empty spot.

After a long pause, a voice could be heard from beneath the lake, "Divine Demon Queen, ruler of all demons on Da Chu's land, what brought you here personally?"

A shadow appeared underneath the lake. It was the Golden Court Dragon God. He then emerged from the waters and sat opposite the Divine Demon Queen.

"You really do not know? Or are you acting like you do not know...?"

The Divine Demon Queen's eyes reflected the lights from the moon and the nearby lamps. With a cold and emotionless voice, she continued, "The heavenly trend is like a sharp knife! Even if us demons ruled for centuries, we can only tread on eggshells now to stand a chance of survival! I have already sacrificed some of my favourite granddaughters, else, why would Da Chu be in chaos and why would Wang Qiao be dead?"

"Sigh..., the heavenly trend has long been hard to understand, why would you seek trouble? Although us demons are downfalling, we can still survive in a faraway land in this vast world!"

The Golden Court Dragon God sighed.

"You have indeed become a people dao deity, you don't even any remaining fellowship as demons left!"

The Divine Demon Queen laughed, "Why must humans be the protagonists while us demons have to be at their mercy? Last time..., I saw you let the small carp go near Xu Ting, and I still thought you were being considerate for us demons. But now, after three years, I finally realised you all were befuddled by fate energy and willingly chose to forsake yourself!"

As they spoke, the Golden Court Dragon God's god dao golden body could not be concealed.

Furthermore, she knew each and every movement Xu family made.

However, either because she was apprehensive of the Dragon God's arrangements or she was too focused on Da Chu's capital, she did not do much about Xu Ting. But now, she was extremely disappointed at such.

Although Li Luan had abandoned her demon form and her cultivation to reincarnate into a human, she was still ignored by Xu Ting.

Hence, from that, it could be told that even if demons gave up their powers and compromised, their outcome would still be the same.

After all, different species had different goals in mind!

The Golden Court Dragon God remained silent. As they were both powerful demons and had supreme intelligence, they could understand each other without speaking.

Li Luan getting close to the dragon energy was actually part of the Golden Court Dragon God's probe too.

However, as Xu Ting married his wife and neglected Li Luan, he lost a lot of fate energy, especially those related to the demons.

"But this is the heavenly trend, what can I do about it?"

The Dragon God finally replied, "Even if Xu Ting were to fail miserably and die, another true hero would still rise amongst the humans! His strength might even be greater!"

"That is why I have already schemed! On one hand, I will create chaos, on the other hand, I will kill any potential heroes from emerging. Even though us demons are dwindling, we must make the humans' population dwindle too!"

The Divine Demon Queen indifferently added, "Both Wang Qiao and the previous emperor of Chu had great amounts of fate energy. Now that they are dead, their fate energy has dispersed! Thus, it will be harder to unite the countries and this would be very beneficial to us!"

"I guess you are determined to kill Xu Ting this time?"

The Golden Court Dragon God's eyes turned golden at once.

"The Golden Court Lake is my territory, if it was like the last time, I could still contend with you in my territory! But now, you are going against the heavenly trend and your elemental energy is greatly affected! How much strength would you even have left?"

"Of course I wouldn't strike this time!"

The Divine Demon Queen smiled, "Just that..., out of this Golden Court Lake, how long can you still protect the humans? For the sake of us demons, would you not interfere?"

"I am afraid I cannot obey you!"

After the Golden Court Dragon God answered, he then waved his hand, causing spiritual energy to gather, thus sealing the lake's surface.

"Ahh..., after knowing each other for hundreds of years, I can't believe we have reached such a situation!"

Seeing how the Dragon God fell out, the Divine Demon Queen could only let out a sigh.

If it was her, she would have definitely made her move and seized such a good opportunity. Since he was already her enemy, she was no longer bound by their fellowship.

Under the heavenly will, one had to fight for every opportunity to survive!

"What a pity..."

The Divine Demon Queen suddenly grinned as she slowly disappeared into thin air.

"An illusion?"

The Golden Court Dragon God reached out to grab her, only to grab a handful of water.

"What an impressive Celestial Fox Technique!"

The Dragon God's expression turned solemn at once, "The demons are already determined to kill the water dragon! Xu Ting is in danger!"

...

An River.

Xu Ting was fully geared as he stood on the deck of an ironclad warship with an overpowering aura.

During this deployment, he sent a total of 50,000 soldiers. Out of the 50,000, 20,000 of them were marines. There was also 100 ships and countless of small vessels.

The vast troop travelled through An River with an imposing appearance.

The districts along the way were all terrified of Xu Ting's troops and they immediately surrendered. Xu Ting's force was unstoppable.

"Sir!"

A daoist priest suddenly asked, "Since we are passing the An River Dragon God's area, should we host a ritual and provide some offerings?"

"An River Dragon God?"

Xu Ting thought for a moment and remembered, "This deity is vicious and bloodthirsty, why would I host a ritual for him? Am I foolish?"

"General!"

The priest was appalled, "The An River is the An River Dragon God's area, if we pass through his area without paying respects, we will be harassed!"

"Harassed?"

Xu Ting laughed and pointed at the warships, "I have ten thousands of soldiers, hundreds of warships and our troops are so strong! Do you think I am scared of a water dragon? Even if he comes to obstruct us, we will kill him! You think my military law is a joke?"

Although he replied stately, there was something different in his laughter.

It was because he was not the one who came up with this idea. He was reminded by what daoist Qing Xuan and some other daoists recommended.

People dao were strong and self-reliant, they did not have to rely on deities! Furthermore, deities absorbed their fate energy and were detrimental to their progress!

Xu Ting then further added, "Besides, don't I have the help from all you daoists?"

"Sir, not to worry!"

The daoist priest's face turned ashen while Kong Luo suddenly replied, "With us, you will be fully protected!"

"With you and other daoists from Xuan Zhen Sect, there's nothing I am afraid of!"

Xu Ting chortled; he had left out the daoist who questioned him at the start.

That daoist's expression turned even worse as Kong Luo could only glance at him with pity.

Kong Luo understood Xu Ting's temperament, he knew this daoist would be shunned and if he was not cautious with his manners again, he would definitely be killed.

"One less competing daoist!" Kong Luo thought.

Kong Luo then sighed as he turned to look at Qing Xuan.

Daoist Qing Xuan worked hard for three years and was gradually favoured again. After all, this was because Xuan Zhen Sect was a powerful and extensive sect, and thus, there were many areas daoist Qing Xuan could help out in.

However, not only did these daoist from Xuan Zhen Sect marginalised others, they were ardently against deities too. This made Kong Luo bewildered.

Suddenly, the crisp noise of a sword rang from his dantian.

"Eh? There's demonic energy spying on us?"

Kong Luo raised his eyebrows and strode to the side of the ship. With a wave of his hand, a few green sword essences plunged into the waters.

"Glub! Glub!"

Streams of bubbles and blood rose to the surface.

The carcasses of a few water guardians and spirits floated to the top.

"Eh, just a few water guardians... not to bother, continue forward!" Xu Ting instructed.

Xu family rose from purging evil gods and their temples, thus, Xu Ting held no regards for the Water God.

The warships ran over the carcasses with no qualms.

...

"Dead, dead, dead..."

Kong Luo did not realise that his sword essence had missed out a fish!

A large green fish had dodged the sword essence by luck. He was utterly astonished and terrified when he saw his companions' carcasses, he then immediately swam for his life and arrived at a water palace.

"Stop! How dare you trespass the Dragon Palace!"

In front of the colossal doors, the two rows of crustacean army immediately hollered.

One of them, named Prawn Thirteen, curiously asked, "Eh? Aren't you the big green fish under the patrolling water guardian? Where's your general? Do you have anything urgent to report?"

"Dead, dead, dead..."

The big green fish swam around frantically, his spiritual will was in chaos.

"What... this fish is so dense, how could he become a soldier? What an embarrassment to us and the Dragon God!"

A crab general at the side sneered immediately.

"General, please pardon him, although this big green fish seems dense, he is hardworking and he has cultivated really quickly..."

Prawn Thirteen went forward to pacify the big green fish. Finally, the big green fish managed to stammer a few words, "Dead... dead... so many humans... so many ships! General... is dead..."

"What?"

The crustacean army was surprised and angered, "Who dares to kill the patrolling water guardian! How insolent! Just wait, I will report this to the Dragon God now!"

"No need!" the voice of a dragon resounded.

A middle-aged man donned in a black crown stepped out and behind him were a group of tortoise guards and shell ladies.

"I know everything that's happening in the river, this Xu Ting, hehe..."

Although he had a human-like appearance, there was a black horn on his head. As he sniggered, his mighty aura spread across the area, causing the crustacean army to immediately kneel on the ground and tremble in unease.

"Dead, dead, dead..."

The big green fish was terrified too, however, he quickly swam away and started swimming in circles.

"This fish..."

The An River Dragon God was surprised at such too, "Although he is unintelligent, his loyalty and bravery are commendable!"

The Dragon God pointed his finger and a beam of golden light landed on the big green fish's body.

The big green fish stumbled on the ground and transformed into a strong man. He had green clothes on his body, thick brows, large eyes and an honest looking appearance.

The nearby soldiers were envious of him.

The Dragon God's transformation technique was naturally different from that of water guardian.

Normal transformation techniques merely gave life, the demons formed were disabled and their spiritual awareness was incapacitated.

Whereas the Dragon God's transformation techniques had no repercussion, instead, it increased their intelligence and their bodies would not be deformed. It was a benevolent gift bestowed by the Dragon God.

Chapter 312: Black Water Dragon

An Dragon Prefecture.

This was a huge prefecture surrounding the An River. The magistrate was long influenced and at the sight of the arrival of a huge navy, he paid his respects and provided a campsite for the naval forces to occupy.

Outside the campsite, two persons emerged as ripples formed on the surface of the lake. It was Fang Yuan and the Golden Court Dragon God.

"What do you think about this, Dragon God?"

Fang Yuan had good eyesight and enquired as soon as he noticed the huge naval troops.

"It is fate from the heavens that we dragons do not associate ourselves with the demons. What can we do?"

Hearing him, the Golden Court Dragon God let out a bitter laugh.

In reality, although the An River Dragon God was powerful, both of them did not take him as a threat.

The unpredictable nature of the people dao was more dangerous.

"This must be the doings of Xuan Zhen Sect... the hidden dragon deserves this tribulation!"

Fang Yuan looked ahead and spoke calmly.

"Eh? Are you not afraid that we will get nothing out of it the moment the hidden dragon dies?"

The Golden Court Dragon God was confused. In terms of investment, this young god had invested more in Xu Ting than himself.

"This is just another battle. Even if we lose, we will at most lose some karma points. I can still return to Qi Lake and cultivate in seclusion... We are gods!"

Fang Yuan's eyes glittered. "Brother Dragon God, don't get yourself manipulated by the people dao's fate and become a pawn!"

Although he had set his sights on the dragon energy, he was ready to give it up and had the determination to do so!

Only with such a mindset would he be able to be unmoved and make sound judgements.

"Ah..."

The Dragon God shook as he felt a chill down his spine. He quickly bowed towards Fang Yuan. "I've made a fool of myself. Thank you for your advice..."

With another laugh, he added. "Who would've known that fate energy would be so powerful! I've only gotten myself slightly involved in it and have almost become trapped in it..."

"To us, it is simply a matter if we notice the problem, that's all!"

Fang Yuan smiled. "As for the other weaker demons, as long as they get themselves involved, they would reach a point of no return. Look at Li Luan... Why, are you intending to help Xu Ting in this?"

"Forget it!"

The Golden Court Dragon God regained his composure. "You're right, he deserves this retribution!"

After all, he was once a demon and now, he was a god. Regardless, he was never a human!

As he came to his realisation and shook off the influence of fate energy, he could quickly regain his composure and calm self.

"Hmm, we have swum the entire river. Almost half of the An River is within the An River Dragon God's control. However, if we combine forces, the An River Dragon God will not be able to defend against us. The true enemy would be the Divine Demon Queen which you have previously mentioned..."

Fang Yuan took a quick glance around and laughed. "It has begun!"

Amidst the strong current, weird-looking heads popped out from the surface of the river. They were the various species of water dwellers and there were thousands of them.

There was silence everywhere as they made their way towards the big ships.

Of course, with the presence of two Dragon Gods, a small technique was all that was needed to shroud the spiritual sense of the weaker demons, making them unable to detect the Dragon Gods' presence.

...

Although they were in the campsite, guards were still required to look over the ships.

The river was choppy and the cabins on the ships were stuffy. Therefore, it was not an easy job and therefore, the guards were rotated based on their shifts and were rewarded with more food and wine. Of course, those on duty were not allowed to drink but they could keep it for consumption after they had completed their guard duties.

"Based on my combat prowess, who would dare to attack us in this area?"

A sailor walked on the deck and complained to his fellow sailor. "Why do we have to do this?"

"Old Xue, if you were smart enough, you would have been a Lieutenant long ago!"

Most of these sailors were pirates previously and had grudges. Even though they were ruled with fear by Xu Ting, they were secretly unhappy with the higher-ups.

"What are you doing? Go for your rounds!"

As they were laughing and joking around, an officer came out of his cabin with a stern look. "Whoever makes any more noise would be punished to scrub the decks tomorrow!"

"Hehe... Don't be angry, we won't dare to slack!"

The few sailors chuckled as they walked towards the edge of the deck.

"Sigh..... Although these sailors are courageous, it is still a headache to discipline them!"

Witnessing this scene, the officer let out a sigh.

The moonlight illuminated the deck, giving it a touching glow. Unknowingly, the officer took a few steps forward. "What a bright moonlight... The moon is the same everywhere. Sigh... I wonder how is Xing'er doing?"

As he was deep in his thoughts, from the corner of his eye, he could see a glitter.

'What's that?'

He was about to say something, but it was a pity he could not begin to speak.

"Whoosh!"

A spear flew from mid-air and pierced through his chest. It had a reverse hook on its tip and with a tug, the young officer flipped overboard, causing a huge splash.

After a few moments, a deep red hue appeared, dyeing the river red.

"Lieutenant sir?"

The few sailors were in shock. They rushed to the railings and with a few ropes, they tied themselves securely and lowered themselves down.

Beneath them, many figures appeared. They were all in shock as they screamed. "Water ghosts! Water ghosts!"

"Splash!"

Rows of crustacean army floated up and climbed onto the decks as they started a killing spree.

Outside the campsite, the river was pitch black. A huge wave appeared and a whirlwind formed, which was a miraculous sight resembling a dragon spitting out water.

"Kill!"

"Kill all these humans!"

"The Dragon God has given an order! We cannot let a single one live, and we need to destroy their ships!"

A few crustacean generals smiled ferociously and as they stood before their army, the moonlight reflected off their shiny shells, revealing a mysterious shine.

"How dare you demons infiltrate my ships!"

The general on duty hollered. "Kill them all!"

With the wave of his hands, a few highly-skilled soldiers appeared. All of them appeared mighty and they were all clad in armour. They wielded Hundred Casted Longknives and with two swipes, a crustacean soldier was beheaded as his head rolled on the deck.

"Alright... Let's not fear them. They are merely beasts with weird appearances equipped with a layer of armour!"

The Naval Officer screamed. "Defend the ship with all your might... don't forget to send someone to inform General Xu Ting about it!"

"Dong! Dong!"

At this point in time, there was a mysterious tremor coming from beneath the deck.

"That's not good... Sir, they're taking the ship apart!"

Seeing this, the Assistant General's expression changed.

The Naval Officer had a similar expression as well.

They were already helpless against the crustacean army on the decks. If the ship was destroyed, what would happen if they were to fall into the river, where the enemy would have the geographical advantage?

"As the officer on duty, I must die with the ship!"

With a ferocious look, he plucked his sword out. "Kill! Kill all these freaks!"

...

"What's happening?"

The commotion at the pier was big enough that those on land were aware of what was happening.

After all, Xu Ting had fate energy. Even though the magistrate offered him a banquet, he was determined to rest within the campsite.

As soon as he fell asleep, he was abruptly woken up. After getting dressed, he saw 10 over daoist priest rushing over. Kong Luo was leading them.

"General!"

Kong Luo greeted Xu Ting. "The An River Dragon God is frenzied! He has sent his crustacean army to attack ours!"

At this point in time, cries were heard from the ship and there were flames burning brilliantly on the deck.

As the warship was taken apart, it slowly sank. All of these happenings angered Xu Ting. "Daoist Qing Xuan! Kong Luo! What are the both of you doing? Get there and make the demons retreat!!!"

After all, he had risen through the ranks due to the navy. Since they did not fight back, Xu Ting was enraged.

"How is this possible?"

Qing Xuan could not believe his eyes as well. "Has the An River God gone crazy? All the soldiers from his crustacean army came from the past hundred years of training. Why would he deploy all of them here? Is he not worried that the demons in An River might stage a rebellion?"

The uprising of the people dao meant that such an attack would be detrimental to the demons.

At least, they would increase the chances and intensity of their tribulations in the future.

Strictly speaking, most of the water dwellers who attacked the ship were mostly injured and it was a huge price to pay.

However, this thought only lasted for a while before going away.

"Since the demons are undergoing tribulations, they must have come to an agreement. The water demons must have talked to the demons on land about this before the Dragon God would decide to take such a risky move!"

Daoist Qing Xuan broke into cold sweat and knew that they were in a very dangerous predicament.

Because of Xu Ting's stubbornness, they had disrespected the An River Dragon God and caused all the troubles that had just happened. He might just have to shoulder all the responsibilities for the day's happenings.

All the fighting had reached a climax as soon as they realised a tornado brewing outside the campsite. "Everything's over!"

"Over!"

Xu Ting was in a daze and did not move a single muscle. It was as though someone had removed his spine.

If the tornado were to enter the campsite, his efforts for the past three years would go down the drain.

"Indeed an evil dragon. Once angered, it would not care about the consequences to come!"

Outside the havoc, Fang Yuan and the Golden Court Dragon God witnessed the scene and heaved. "If the An River Dragon God were to accomplish what he had set out to do, it would be certain that the next tribulation would take his life!"

"Although the hidden dragon would be met with troubles, it should not encounter such a huge tribulation... After all, it is where the dragon energy is concentrated in the people dao..."

Seeing this scene, the Golden Court Dragon God felt that he should not allow Xu Ting's navy to be destroyed. "How about we help him out?"

"Alright!"

Fang Yuan nodded his head and both of them took a step forward. They transformed into dragons and circled above the campsite.

"Roar! Roar!"

The Golden Court Dragon God only had the illusionary shape of a dragon, but had no physical body; On the other hand, Fang Yuan's dragon body had physical flesh. As they released their dragon's might, the reckless water dwellers shook in fear and became weaker. Those humans who were quicker took the opportunity to escape. Those who were slower merely became a bloodied mess.

"How dare the both of you stop me!"

Amidst the tornado, a black water dragon appeared. Swinging its claws about, it had a ferocious look and there was a red glow in its eyes.

"What an evil water dragon!"

Fang Yuan sighed as soon as he saw it.

Horned Dragons were merely young dragons with the body resembling a snake and a horn on its head.

Water Dragons, on the other hand, had horns and dragon claws as well.

Previously, Bai Guan attempted to transform into a dragon and had 2 dragon claws. However, this black water dragon was a Dragon God for many years and had already grown 4 dragon claws! It was only a step away from becoming a true dragon!

Chapter 313: Slaying the Dragon

"Whooo!"

As the tornado ensued, the winds raged on. Suddenly, a flagstaff broke and the flag was blown up into the air.

In the epicentre of the tornado, a black water dragon was glaring at a horned dragon and a golden dragon on the opposite side.

"This is..."

"Thank you for your blessings, Dragon God!"

Beneath, the leftover sailors, regardless of their rank, were all kneeling down and worshipping the dragons.

"Where did these dragon gods come from?"

Xu Ting witnessed the scene before him, as he clenched his fists, tensed.

"It seems that one of them is the Golden Court Dragon God. I don't seem to recognise the other one, but he seems as powerful!"

Spiritual light spilt out of Kong Luo's eyes as he shook his head. "It is your fate that you have the protection from these two dragon gods!" He congratulated Xu Ting.

"It's too early to conclude! Go forth and assist the naval officers to slay the demons!"

Xu Ting laid out a few other commands. "Also... As for these two dragon gods, remember to give them offerings in the future to show our gratitude..."

He had to put up a show!

At this point in time, the destructive tornado was still out there!

After all, he had already completely forgotten about the Xuan Zhen Sect's involvement with demons.

"Yes Sir!"

10 over daoist acknowledged the order, arrived on the ship and executed their spiritual techniques.

"Spring Returning Spell!"

"Fire from the Heavenly Order, strike!"

"Watch out for my sword, you beast!"

...

With the continuous spiritual spells and sword radiance, Kong Luo leapt around with a lethal green-coloured sword essence around him. Although his strikes were powerful, there was no joy on his face.

He was clear that they were mere distractions; the only ones who would be able to influence the outcome of the battle were the dragon gods.

"The two of you... are traitors! You bring shame to us demons!"

The black water dragon roared. "I am the An River Water God! The spiritual energy of the An River, hear my command, gather!"

A mysterious glow appeared on the black water dragon's body as the winds started to pick up. A huge illusionary shadow of a river appeared behind him, blessing him with unparalleled power.

The advantage goes to whoever was on their home ground!

"Indeed a righteous god! What a pity... you're a tyrant!"

Fang Yuan shook his head and glanced at the Golden Court Dragon God. "Let's do it!"

"Listen to my command, the spiritual energy shall disperse!"

At that moment, two mysterious glows appeared on their backs as well, revealing the imagery of a vast lake. With a roar, the An River became affected and the spiritual energy quickly dispersed.

"It's the Qi Lake Dragon God and the Golden Court Lake Dragon God!"

These two lakes were neighbouring the An River and could affect it greatly. Therefore, as the two dragon gods of the lakes combined their forces, the spiritual energy of the An River was mostly dissipated!

The greatest power a god could ever have was stripped off him in an instant.

Furthermore, under the pressure from both lakes, the illusionary shadow of the An River started to shrink. Finally, it could no longer hold on under the pressure. A black fog appeared and in it the hue of blood and an inauspicious omen.

After the closer look, many restless souls were seen within the black fog. These restless souls came from the live offerings given to the An River as well as the humans being killed by this attack. All of them were dressed in white robes and had blood oozing out of their eyes.

As the An River Dragon God, he had to bear the responsibility if the gods under him were to partake in unethical acts like accepting live offerings.

The restless souls accumulated over all these years had amounted to a scarily huge number. Being released all at once and the fact that the An River Dragon God had to deal with the other two dragon gods as well, he was being cornered with nowhere to go.

"Karma will always come back at the right time!"

Seeing this, Fang Yuan mumbled to himself as he gained a new level of understanding for the realm.

"If you follow the heavenly trend, things would be easier!"

The Golden Court Dragon God sighed and took a step forward. He stretched both his palms out.

"Disperse!"

"Whooooo!"

A strong gust of wind started to oppose the tornado, weakening it.

As the people on the ground witnessed the fight, they were all shocked and surprised. A huge calamity like this was so simply put out by the gods.

"Ahh... You two, remember what you've done!"

There were bloody flames burning on the black water dragon's body. As he roared in pain, he released a glow from his scales in an attempt to fight the flames as he tried to escape.

With such a golden opportunity, how would Fang Yuan let it go to waste? "Thunder Sword! Strike!"

"Rumble!"

Thunder roared in the skies and a bolt of lightning struck across. Immediately, it blocked the path of the escaping black water dragon. "Water and Fire are heartless, and the Thunder Sword shall act as the heavenly tribulation. 3 Talents Sword Array, rise!"

"Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!"

3 streaks of swords struck towards the skies from the ground. Icy, fiery and electrifying, they exploded in a split second.

"Young god... What an impressive move!"

Seeing this scene, the Golden Court Dragon God's eyelid started to twitch. If he was the one being trapped by the sword array, he had no confidence in escaping as well.

"Although this array is powerful, it is still not powerful enough to kill a dragon god!"

Fang Yuan appeared calm. "Golden Court Dragon God, please restrict it with your imperial order for me to deliver the final blow!"

"Alright!"

"Bang!"

In the next moment, the 3 Talents Sword Array exploded, revealing a heavily wounded and charred black water dragon.

"Restrict!"

The Golden Court Dragon God appeared solemn. With both his hands, he pressed downwards and immediately, a colourful imagery of believers giving their offerings appeared behind his back. In a split second, the imagery turned into a golden wheel.

This was the Golden Wheel of Offerings, and it had the power of tens of thousands of believers in it.

In terms of people dao, the black water dragon only had heaps of grievances compared to the Golden Wheel of Offerings.

As the Golden Wheel of Offerings slowly pressed downwards against the black water dragon, the black water dragon let out a shriek. The imperial order from within its body appeared; it was golden with a hue of green. On it, there was a spinning glow. As the runes shook, it felt as though something big was about to happen.

This was how easy it would be when going with the heavenly trend.

"Alright!"

The horned dragon shook and took on the form of a human.

With a finger, Fang Yuan directed his 3 magical swords to combine into a single entity, forming a gigantic sword radiance.

In mid-air, it was as though a huge sword had appeared.

The huge sword had an icy body, but there were flames and streaks of electricity on its surface. It felt as though it was worthy of providing a heavenly tribulation.

"Slice!"

Fang Yuan held the sword in his hands and sliced down at the black water dragon.

"Whoosh!"

As a huge glow appeared, the heavens and the earth came together in an instant. Dark clouds formed above and a storm broke out.

As blood spewed everywhere, a water dragon's head rolled onto the floor and landed directly in front of Xu Ting with its eyes opened wide!

"With a single slice, the water dragon is killed!"

Kong Luo stared into blank space and his face was pale.

He realised that this dragon god's cultivation in sword skills was a thousand folds more than his! The dragon god was at a whole new level!

Xu Ting was more shocked than Kong Luo.

"Is that... The Black Dragon General?!"

Looking at his human form, he could recognise Fang Yuan's youthful look.

The only difference was that previously, he was in plainclothes but now, he was decked in a royal outfit and had a majestic look. After delivering the killer blow, he seemed even more powerful than before.

Everything that had just happened made him feel as though he was in a dream.

"Didn't Father mention that he was a black snake, a water god? How did he become a dragon god so quickly?"

Of course, the gigantic water dragon's severed head, the rain of blood and fight made him realise that everything was real, including Fang Yuan's power.

Without thinking, Xu Ting quickly paid his respects. "I am Xu Ting from the Golden Court Prefecture. Thank you dragon gods for your assistance!"

Golden Court Dragon God did not care about Xu Ting.

He was entirely focused on restraining the An River imperial order.

The An River Dragon God was as powerful as him. If not for Fang Yuan's assistance and the fact that they could make use of their geographical advantage, the Golden Court Dragon God had no chance of subduing the An River Dragon God.

The An River imperial order shimmered as though it was unwilling to be restrained. However, as soon as it detected the karma and traces of people dao from the Golden Court Dragon God, it slowly calmed down.

"Thank you, brother!"

With the imperial order, Golden Court Dragon God was elated as he gave his thanks to Fang Yuan.

Although the Golden Court Dragon God had no clue how long it would take for him to absorb this imperial order, he knew that if he could do it, his power would increase by folds.

It was no small matter to be able to increase his power by such a margin.

"This was our agreement, so you're most welcome!"

As he replied, his hands worked as he kept the corpse of the black water dragon.

Seeing this, the Golden Court Dragon God was stunned but did not comment.

Since he had already taken the imperial order for himself, he was in no position to comment if Fang Yuan were to take the corpse. Even if Fang Yuan wanted to loot the entire An River Dragon Palace, he would still allow for it.

"Both dragon gods!"

At this point in time, they finally took notice of the ants beneath them.

Kong Luo and a few other daoist were heard. "Our general is eternally grateful for your assistance. He would prepare a banquet and wants to invite both of you to join in!"

"Alright, let's take a look!"

Fang Yuan exchanged glances with the Golden Court Dragon God and both of them laughed.

Other than the An River Dragon God, there were no other gods worthy of posing a threat to them in the entire Da Chu. This called for a celebration.

In reality, the demons had miscalculated. If there was only a Golden Court Dragon God backing Xu Ting, the An River demons would still be able to kill Xu Ting.

They had no idea that Fang Yuan would get himself involved and destroy the black water dragon to turn the tables!

With a wrong move, the entire fight was lost.

At this point in time, even if the Divine Demon Queen were to leave her stronghold and come for the both of them, both dragon gods had nothing to fear.

It was a night of celebration.

On the second day, Xu Ting sent both dragon gods off and immediately called his subordinates together for a meeting.

"Reporting! Yesterday, we lost 20 ships, 2,000 Naval Officers and 1,000 other men... We have 17 officers of Lieutenant rank and above found dead!"

A Naval Officer stood out and reported the numbers.

They had incurred losses even before the war. However, considering that they did not lose their entire army, this outcome was still acceptable.

Xu Ting was pale. "The remaining arrangements shall be made by this provincial military commander. Also, I think that... We should build temples for the Qi Lake Dragon God and Golden Court Lake Dragon God in all prefectures!"

"Yes, Sir!"

Kong Luo took a step out and glanced at the few daoist from Xuan Zhen Sect.

"General, I am willing to fork out 1,000 taels of gold and 1,000 catties of ration to assist the army!"

Qing Xuan's face twitched and had no choice but to report.

"Mmm, I shall accept your generosity!"

Xu Ting replied in an official tone. That feeling of animosity shook Qing Xuan, and he could do nothing but let out a bitter smile.

He knew that considering all that his sect had done to fight the demons and gods in the past, it was now hard to salvage the situation.

"Furthermore..."

After all the other subordinates were dismissed, Kong Luo was requested to stay behind.

The young general had a look of uncertainty on his face. "Secretly send some of our guys to the Golden Lake Prefecture... Fetch Lady Li Luan here!"

After all that had happened last night, Xu Ting had figured out that this woman represented a portion of fate energy of the demons. He had to accept and marry her.

"Yes, Sir!"

Kong Luo agreed, and his heart shook.

After many years of cultivation, he also knew about the heavenly trend.

The downfall of demons and uprising of humans had to be accepted.

Xu Ting had a weak foundation. It would be beneficial for him if he could absorb the fate energy of the demons.

Chapter 314: Surrounding the Capital

"My Lord!"

Li Luan had a pale look. As soon as she entered the room, she saw Xu Ting and softly exclaimed.

"Mmm..."

Xu Ting acknowledged, but his mind was complicated.

After all, their feelings for each other were real when they were younger. However, since they were not suited for each other and coupled with the fact that the daoist priests from Xuan Zhen Sect had repeatedly warned him about Li Luan, he had neglected her for the past few years.

However, hope was not lost.

Immediately, he walked towards her and spoke in a soothing voice. "It has been hard on you for the past few years. I have already written a letter to my father, informing him of my intention to marry you after the war is over..."

"Thank you, my Lord!"

This was a dream come true for her. However, Li Luan was confused as she felt a chill down her spine.

Although the man standing before her was the same man whom she had given the dragon pearl to, it felt as though he was worn out.

Of course, on the surface, she did not display her thoughts on her face. Even Xu Ting could not know what she was thinking and therefore did not suspect anything.

"Very well, you have an old friend that wants to see you. I shall not hold you further!"

Xu Ting waved his hands.

Confused, Li Luan walked out. Following the servants, she arrived at a backyard.

At the pond, there was a small pavilion. In the pavilion, there was a huge green fish jumping about, and it seems as though the fish had a demonic trait.

Of course, what had surprised her was not the green fish, but the person playing with the fish.

"You're here?"

Fang Yuan turned around and smiled.

"You..."

Of course, Li Luan could recognise Fang Yuan. However, the young man gave off a very different vibe compared to last time.

He not only had the vibes of a majestic dragon, he had a powerful spiritual aura. Uncontrollably, tears welled up in Li Luan's eyes. "Is this... the Qi Lake Water God?"

"That's right! I have killed the 3 demons in the Qi Lake and inherited the appointment as Water God!"

Fang Yuan admitted to his doings without hiding anything. With the wave of his hands, the green fish rolled onto the floor and transformed into a well-built man in green robes.

"Come to think of it, the 3 of us had gathered on Xu Ren's ship in the middle of An River. Everything is still the same, but we have all changed. Interesting..."

As he calmly spoke, mysterious dragon vibes were felt from his body. Li Luan could detect that Fang Yuan was now more powerful than her own father was when he was alive as the Qi Lake Water God.

"Also... The An River Dragon God had obstructed the navy and was therefore killed by the Golden Court Dragon God and I. Therefore, the tribulation on you has been reduced!"

Fang Yuan revealed some news.

Li Luan was originally the daughter of the Qi Lake Water God and had bad blood with Bai Guan. In order to take her revenge, she had willingly served under the An River Dragon God and had endured humiliation in order to steal a pearl from the water dragon.

However, she was blinded by fate energy and made a rash decision to gift the pearl to Xu Ting.

Therefore, it was not inexplicable that the An River Dragon God had attacked Xu Ting; both parties were unaware that they were already linked by the pearl.

"Thank you, Dragon God!"

Li Luan could not hold her tears back as she paid her respects to Fang Yuan. "Thank you Dragon God for avenging my father on my behalf and severing my ties with the dragon pearl. I shall swear from today onwards to cut off all ties with Qi Lake, and that shall apply to my family for generations to come!"

"Very good! I like smart people! Alright, that's all!"

Fang Yuan smiled and nodded his head.

The previous Qi Lake Water God was that big green snake with little karma. Therefore, the chances that his future generations could rise up to power once more was slim.

Therefore, Fang Yuan took precautions to ensure that he would not use up his fate energy in all that had happened.

Of course, Li Luan was only a small part of his plan. The crux had yet to unfold.

After dismissing Li Luan, he looked at the huge green fish. "Hey... Little Green, do you remember me?"

"That year... on that ship... black snake... d*mn it!"

Although the huge green fish was dense, it had a good memory and could recall what had happened many years ago.

"Mmm... The 3 of us are fated, but not just by how we met before!"

Fang Yuan continued after heaving a sigh. "The previous Qi Lake Water God had little karma. Although he died in the tribulation, he had a chance of revival. Unknowingly, even after meeting each other face to face, the father and his daughter no longer recognise each other. What a pity."

After absorbing an entire imperial order, Fang Yuan's body was extremely sensitive. Together with his spiritual sense as a dream master, there was no way he could guess wrong.

This green fish was the reincarnation of the previous Qi Lake Water God! In other words, his soul was now possessing this green fish's body!

Of course, the power of being a god was already transferred to Fang Yuan. Even if he were to regain all his memories of his past life or even restore his cultivation, there was nothing he could do. Regardless, he would still be trouble.

Also, Fang Yuan had taken the dragon pearl which he had prepared as a backup as well. This was how the both of them were related.

"You, get over here!"

Thinking about this, he hesitated no more and called for the fish.

"You're... calling for me?"

The well-built man in green robes hesitated before walking towards Fang Yuan.

"Very good!"

Fang Yuan flipped his palm, revealing 9 drops of dark-red blood. In the blood, there was a hint of gold with a dragon's might.

After disintegrating the water dragon's corpse, all that was left was this dragon's property and the blood of a water dragon.

"Take it!"

He smiled and executed a technique as he pressed the dragon's blood on the forehead of the well-built man.

"Whoosh!"

The 9 drops of blood combined to form the shape of a small water dragon before flying into his forehead.

"Bang!"

The well-built man's eyes turned white as he fainted and fell to the ground.

"I have obtained the dragon pearl and imperial order based on my own merits and have nothing to do with you. Today, I shall trade this dragon's property and dragon's blood to cut off all ties with you! We no longer owe each other anything!"

Seeing the unconscious well-built man, Fang Yuan mumbled to himself.

In reality, this was not only severing ties with him but a plan for something greater.

Once this huge green fish obtained the dragon's blood and dragon's property, it would be able to cultivate at an increased speed and there was hope for it to transform into a dragon in the future. This was how Fang Yuan wanted to end things. If the green fish were to regain its memory of its past life and plot against Fang Yuan for the position of Qi Lake Water God, then Fang Yuan would have no choice but to kill it!

As for the greater plan, it was a plan against the Golden Court Dragon God.

Although he had established a good relationship with the Golden Court Dragon God, Fang Yuan would not trust him entirely and would prefer to guard against him nevertheless.

Now that the Golden Court Dragon God had both the An River and the Golden Court Lake, he might get greedy and set his sights on Qi Lake!

By then, Li Luan, this green fish and other related water dwellers would become the Golden Court Dragon God's pawn; the chances that this green fish would be manipulated by the dragon god was the highest.

But now, the green fish would be considered related to the Qi Lake Water God as well as the water dwellers in An River for it had absorbed the blood of the An River Dragon God. Therefore, it would be considered related to the An River Dragon God as well!

If the Golden Court Dragon God were to remain unaware of this relationship and continue to manipulate the green fish... the Golden Court Dragon God might lead himself to his own downfall.

Of course, this was only a plan and none of it had happened.

At this point in time, the well-built man on the floor transformed back into a green fish. However, now, its scales had a black pattern. This was the power of the water dragon's blood! Even if Fang Yuan were to personally help the green fish in absorbing the blood, the green fish would still ultimately change its personality and traits due to the dragon's blood.

'This is how the plot will twist. If you become a black fish, you would instead become more acquainted with the An River...'

Fang Yuan's eyes glittered. As he walked to the riverbank, he released the half-green and half-black fish with a smirk on his face.

This was controlling one's fate and riding on the heavenly trend to plan for the future!

...

At the same time, in the royal capital of Da Chu.

The Xinfeng Army's military governor, Baili Xuandu, had led an army of 60,000 to start attacking the city.

He was 30 years old and started out as a small corporal. After rendering his meritorious service, he had gained the admiration of the more experienced military governors and was therefore promoted. They had even betrothed their daughters to him.

This time, 10 military governors came together to fight against Wang Qiao. The most experienced of the military governors died on the battlefield. Baili Xuandu was tasked to assassinate Wang Qiao. As he was successful, he had gotten his revenge and had gained the support of two towns. With his 10,000-strong army, he had surrounded the royal capital and the morale was high.

"Da Chu had no more troops. Against my 60,000-strong army, I believe I can force the Imperial Court to surrender and become the emperor!"

Baili Xuandu's eyes were burning with passion. Seeing the royal family standing atop the city walls, he ordered the machinery to advance. The three generals shouted once more as they did a last-ditch attempt to convince the Imperial Court to surrender.

"Empress Dowager?"

On the city walls, many officials glanced at the young Empress Dowager as they remained silent.

"Hey... After taking care of all of you for the past hundred years, do you guys really want to come together to force us to a corner?"

The Empress Dowager snickered.

Although she was fuming mad, she was still a beauty, which made many of the younger ministers' hearts sway.

'We have been ordered to defend this place with our lives. Baili Xuandu is here for the dragon energy. I must not let him have Da Chu and have his way!'

The young Empress Dowager hugged the young King and thought to herself.

She was originally a demon. After becoming Wang Qiao's mistress, she had hidden from the public. After the arrival of the young king, Wang Qiao had given her an official title. Because of her baby, she was promoted and from then onwards, she had become the Empress Dowager, the true owner of the palace.

Now that she had displayed her anger, the ministers knelt down in unison. "We don't dare!"

"Since you don't dare to disobey, what are you still doing? Protect the city! Wang Xu, I'll leave the city's defences to you!"

The Empress Dowager scanned her surroundings and picked a general. It was someone of the same ethnicity as Wang Qiao.

"Yes, Ma'am! We will obey your orders!"

This person had the control over Wang Qiao's remaining fighting force, which was rather powerful. Of course, most importantly, they would not surrender and would fight to their deaths.

This was because if Baili Xuandu were to enter the city, they would let off everyone except the ethnic people of Wang Qiao in the name of righteousness!

Wang Xu agreed and scanned his surroundings. With a killer look, the rest of them were motivated to defend.

"It seems that we still need to invade the city!"

Outside the city, Baili Xuandu took in a deep breath. "Pass down my command. Whoever reaches the top of the city walls first will be promoted 3 ranks and rewarded 1,000 taels!"

Even though the city walls were tall and hard to infiltrate, they could do so as long as they had the determination and courage!

"Kill!"

In history, those who ascended the city walls first would promote a rank or had an insignificant reward. Now that they would potentially promote 3 ranks, most of the soldiers were motivated to try their best.

As the catapults swung rocks at the walls, arrows rained towards the walls. The army charged forward and at that moment, they had forgotten the risks of dying.

Beili Xuandu remained calm. He clenched his fists tightly. 'Even if they don't surrender, they would suffer from a high casualty rate. This is the perfect opportunity and I must make full use of it!'

The sunset spilt golden rays on the earth.

'It has only been a day but I have lost over a thousand of my soldiers. However, if we persist for another day, I'm sure we will be able to break through!'

Baili Xuandu's eyes were bloodshot. In the next moment, he could feel a chill down his spine.

"Military governor, look..... at..... north!"

A group of messengers rushed to him and could not even articulate properly.

From a tall platform, Baili Xuandu looked across and noticed a black line charging towards them from the horizon. They were not soldiers or calvaries, but wolves, tigers, leopards and other beasts forming a battalion of beasts! "Demonic beasts!?"

Chapter 315: King Sun

Fenghe Prefecture, Da Chu.

In this prefecture, there was a famous mountain called Xuanping Mountain that housed the Xuan Zhen Sect's headquarters.

Forests on the mountains were lush while dense, fluffy clouds covered the mountains.

On a certain mountain peak, a gust of wind blew away the clouds and a building could be seen. The building housed numerous pavilions and terraces; it was brilliantly structured. Caws of celestial cranes could be heard and spirit monkeys could be seen plucking fruits. It had the look of a grand celestial manor.

"Chirp! Chirp!"

Suddenly, a green bird cut across the sky and flew into the hall of the building. Its shrills were sorrowful and pierced the silence.

The hall was built from pure copper and there were a few altars used to worship deities inside the hall. In front, there were a few elders seating on cushions.

"A message from the green bird? Moreover, it's the most urgent secret information?"

The head of Xuan Zhen Sect was stunned for a moment. He then immediately waved his hand and a clear gust of wind reached the green bird.

The green bird's eyes shined brightly, it was extremely human-like. It then began rapidly reciting, "Elders, disaster! Xinfeng army's military governor Baili Xuandu was met with resistance from the Empress Dowager at the capital. After he refused to surrender, he was attacked by the Demonic Beast Swarm! The 60,000 men strong army toppled in a day and he almost died!"

Although it was only a few sentences, the information and meaning in them were astounding. The elders' expression changed at once, "Demonic Beast Swarm? The demons have always schemed behind the scenes! This time, they finally displayed their powers in front of everyone?"

"Divine Predictor Elder, what do you think?"

After the initial commotion, Xuan Zhen Sect Head enquired a person.

This person's beard was so long it touched the ground and his face was full of wrinkles. He appeared haggard and looked like a skeleton, as though he was about to die.

"Cough..... cough....."

The Divine Predictor coughed twice before speaking weakly and breathlessly, "I have already investigated each countries' dragon energy. Disregarding Da Qi and Da Liang, inside Da Chu, there are only two rising dragon energies. One is Xu Ting while the other is Baili Xuandu!"

"Although there are some others with slight potential, since they have not risen to power till now, they have missed the right timing, the right conditions and the right people. They can be considered useless now..."

"Although our sect originally favoured Xu Ting and invested in him early on, ever since Xu family have gotten too close with the demons, their fate energy has changed. In this three years, we have gradually favoured Baili Xuandu, but alas, just before we could sever ties with Xu Family and invest in Baili Xuandu, he was defeated! He has fully lost the right timing and there would be no chance for him to rise again!"

"The demons are determined to have us dead!"

A female elder loathingly said, "But there are no other hidden dragons that have not been noticed and killed... what should we do from now on? Fully invest in Xu family or seal the mountain and retreat?"

"We absolutely cannot seal the mountain!"

The Sect Head shook his head, "We are at the peak of the turmoil now and can only move forward with it. If we were to retreat, we will lose out on people dao fate energy, and our sect will slowly decline even if we have the support of our rare treasures..."

"Looks like the Sect Head has favoured Xu Ting, but not only is he not getting closer to us, he is getting more inclined towards the lone practitioners and demons!"

Another elder shook his head, "Previously, Qing Xuan relayed that the Golden Court Dragon God and Qi Lake Dragon God were the ones who saved Xu Ting's troops when he was attacked by An River Dragon God. This shows that they have deep ties..."

"That's not true!"

Xuan Zhen Sect Head laughed, "Too much of a good thing can actually be worse! Although these two Dragon Gods played a huge role, Xu Ting would still be fearful of them. Xu Ting is merely ingratiating them as he needs them for his war, but what happens when the war is over?"

"Brilliant and insightful!"

A few other daoists nodded their head in agreement, "Especially now, there are no more heroes in Da Chu's capital. Even the demons have used up everything! The two sides suffered severe losses. If Xu Ting can quickly send his troops over, he will definitely be able to occupy it!"

"Such a situation will be an easy task for Xu Ting, hence, the chances of him relying on the Dragon Gods would be even smaller! Thus, we must suppress them with every opportunity we have!"

"True!"

Xuan Zhen Sect Head nodded his head, "Since that is the case, go ahead!"

"All of you may leave now!"

The daoists kowtowed before leaving the hall one by one. Only the Sect Head stayed behind to ponder as he looked at the rising smoke from the incense and its quivering flame.

...

"What?"

he news spread around fast and not before long, Fang Yuan, who was in Qi Lake, caught wind of it too.

"I can't believe it! I really can't believe the demons were so daring to ambush the hidden dragon." Fang Yuan mumbled to himself.

From his source of intelligence, although Baili Xuandu's army was wiped out, the demons suffered great losses as well.

After all, Baili Xuandu was a powerful military governor; he had numerous talented people under him. Moreover, he had the support of his dragon energy.

After the bloody battle, the Demonic Beast Swarm was severely desecrated too. Apparently, outside Da Chu's capital, there was a mountain tall pile of corpses. It was an utterly revolting mixture of humans' and beasts' corpses and carcasses.

"This Xu Ting is really lucky. Perhaps his fate energy has greatly increased since he received the support from the Golden Court Dragon God and me?"

Fang Yuan stroked his chin.

Upon hearing the news, Xu Ting immediately gave up on reorganising his troops. He promptly led his troops towards Qi Lake.

At that moment, the numerous military occupied towns were in chaos after they lost their leader. They either surrendered or were conquered instantly. In just a short period, Xu Ting occupied more than ten prefectures in the vicinity of An River and Qi Lake; he had already occupied half the country!

"If he can stop the demons from interfering and conquer the capital, he would naturally be able to rule the entire Da Chu thereafter!"

The fight for Da Chu was getting clearer.

Inside Da Chu, there was no doubt that Xu family was the strongest force to be reckoned with. Moreover, they were even stronger than the imperial family.

Furthermore, Da Qi and Da Liang were in internal chaos too. If Xu Ting could unite and rule Da Chu, he could even unite the countries under his rule!

"Hence, Xu Ting would become the number one hated target amongst all demons... this would spell trouble for him..."

Fang Yuan shook his head and looked towards a direction as he pondered. After a moment, he cast a magical formula and a water mirror appeared.

"A group of daoist has just joined Xu Ting, looks like they are from Xuan Zhen Sect... How did I not know that there were so many cultivators in this realm?"

As the Qi Lake Dragon God, he could understand the situation of the nearby prefectures.

As he saw such a scene, he felt solemn.

The reason humans were rising was not only because they were favoured by the heavenly trend, they had also surpassed a certain threshold. Thus, talented people and heroes could continually emerge amongst the humans.

At that moment, Xu Ting was only left with becoming the ruler of the entire Da Chu. Thus, he had the support of many people which made him even more powerful!

Rome was not built in a day! Every contribution mattered!

Once Xu Ting had the support of millions of people, even the Divine Demon Queen would be rather fearful of his force!

"Since his soldiers were severely fatigued from the battles this year, he must strike next year!"

Fang Yuan contemplated, "Xu Ting has two ways to achieve a breakthrough. One is the capital of Da Chu, the other is to continue conquering the remaining military occupied towns... this is all clear!"

Xu family's strength was already sufficient to officially rule the entire Da Chu.

"At such a stage, I guess some people can only be forced to invest more?"

Fang Yuan looked towards the water mirror with a sly smile.

...

At that moment, Xu Ting was in plain clothes and was hiking with a few of his confidants.

"Qiwei Prefecture is the core of the 5 prefectures near Qi Lake. Since Golden Court Lake is too far from here, Father has already prepared to move his office here. He will personally officiate this prefecture and monitor the frontlines..."

They felt relaxed as they hiked higher up the mountains.

Xu Ting casually mentioned, "During the spring of next year, after we finish reorganising the troops, we definitely must launch our attacks and rapidly unite Da Chu."

"Just that... there is still an issue!"

He raised his eyebrows and continued, "Although my father is the Glorious Grandmaster, such a title is still a ministerial position! A minister as a head of state, that is not appropriate!"

"You are right, General, it is time to promote his title!"

The confidants immediately chimed in.

To be the ruler of a country was an opportunity many wanted.

Furthermore, since Xu Ting already planned to attack the capital, the title of 'Minister' was really not apt.

"The Glorious Grandmaster's hard work allowed us to occupy half the country! Promoting his title to King would be very suitable!" one of his followers suggested.

Realistically, with the lands he had occupied, the title of Emperor would be too forced.

"King?"

Xu Ting was moved at once.

Nearby, as daoist Qing Xuan watched the scene, he was reminded of his Sect Head. "Xuan Zhen Sect suffered losses after losses and our progress has been severely hindered... Now, the elders do not even mind utilising our sect's rare treasures to tide this through! This is not for our sect but for the heavenly trend!"

Qing Xuan stood quietly as he waited for his chance.

As they were tired from their hike, Xu Ting took a look at the sun and said, "Time to find a place to rest! After lunch, we will head down the mountain!"

"General!"

Daoist Qing Xuan suddenly called out, "This peak is called King Sun's Mountain, we can visit the King Sun's Court up there to rest!"

"Okay, let's go there!"

Hearing such, Xu Ting was intrigued. Upon reaching the peak, there was indeed a small court. It was styled in a temple-like fashion, it was also rustic and elegant looking, while still retaining a sense of solemnity.

In front of the court, there was a rock tablet. It introduced the life of King Sun and had a poem inscribed on it. "Although the temple has resided in this mountain for a long time, many have not heard of King Sun. He fought the rebels of Qi Lake, leaving behind his great legacy. A hero of the past enshrined in history, a name not known by many. Although new deeds could not be inscribed, respects could be paid."

"So it's a temple for a king!"

After Xu Ting thought for a moment, he ordered someone to pass him the incense. He then ceremoniously worshipped.

This King Sun was the second prince of the previous dynasty. He was both scholarly and skilled in martial arts. He had even led troops to suppress rebels in Qi Lake. After the eldest prince died, many supported him to be the crown prince. However, he was framed by others and ultimately did not become the emperor. He was only bestowed upon the title of King Sun and not long after, he mysteriously "drowned".

Of course, Xu Ting did not trust what was written in the historical records. He felt a cold sweat as he thought, "The fight for the throne is deadly, even the descendants of emperors died fighting for the throne. What can I even be proud of at my current stage?"

Xu Ting self-reflected as he prayed a few more times.

"Eh?"

Suddenly, the nearby Kong Luo's expression changed. He opened his spiritual eyes and saw streaks of fate energy gathering above the court and entering Xu Ting's head as he worshipped. It signified Xu Ting was meant to be a king!

Chapter 316: Following the Trend

The 9th Year of Yong An, the First Day of the year.

Xu Ren had arrived at Qiwei Prefecture. He had ordered for a Heavenly Temple to be built and had taken up the appointment of King, with the title of 'Wu'. He was now King Wu. On that night, there was a banquet and a ceremony to declare his wife as the Queen. Xu Ting was appointed the Head General and was in charge of military affairs.

On the same day, one of the district leaders had presented a 5 Coloured Lingzhi, which was subsequently recorded in the books.

On the 3rd Month, Xu Ting had officially led his troop of 10,000 soldiers to attack the capital city of Da Chu!

Outside of the capital city, there were miles of charred land and occasionally, bones were seen lying around. It was a horrific sight to behold.

Xu Ting whipped his horse as they advanced towards the capital city. Seeing that the city was just right before his eyes, he could not hold back but chuckle. "Baili Xuandu has returned to his own town and is

no longer a threat! The priority now is to take down the capital city of Da Chu and make our occupation official!"

With almost half of Da Chu's territory in their hands, they had the freedom to choose which direction they would want to attack the capital city from.

They could either strike the capital city of Da Chu, or attack from the Xinfeng Army.

Based on Xu Ting's judgement, although Baili Xuandu had control over 6 prefectures in the north, they were but empty shells and was no threat. Therefore, he would choose to surround the royal capital.

After all, the royal capital was where the headquarters were and therefore, he had to treat it seriously.

Is Wang Xu in charge of the defence of the capital city of Da Chu? He is of the same ethnicity as Wang Qiao. Who would've thought that he would be able to work with the Empress Dowager so closely!"

Xu Ting rubbed his chin and recalled a few rumours that he had heard in the past. "There must be a reason for everything. The royal palace of Da Chu must be hiding some dirty secrets within!"

"Pass down my command, we shall set up our campsite here and officially invade the city tomorrow!"

Thinking about it, he quickly passed down his command.

Although there were a few prefecture districts neighbouring the capital city of Da Chu, these districts were long destroyed and would surrender instantly if they were to set foot in them. It was an easy task to conquer those districts.

At this point in time, his 10,000-soldier army were surrounding the capital city of Da Chu. With a strong backing, this invasion was much different compared to that led by Baili Xuandu. They could afford to surround and contain the capital city and were not afraid to drag the invasion.

With the heavenly trend in place, they did not have to resort to using underhand means to successfully invade the capital city. By dragging the invasion, it was advantageous for the Xu Family.

This was because the way they had executed the invasion was slow but steady. It exemplified the true meaning of the art of war.

"Yes Sir!"

Without hesitation, the instruction was relayed and the campsite was set up promptly. Due to their past experience with demons, they had fortified and strengthened their tents and even had soldiers doing patrol duties. They would boil their water before consumption and were on their guards at all times.

"Previously, the demons had suffered losses as well. Furthermore, I am not Baili Xuandu and I am in no hurry to take down the capital city. Therefore, it is unlikely that there would be any loopholes in our invasion for we are not hasty. The chances of us being attacked are minimal!"

Even so, Xu Ting still sent out a troop of 500 cavalries to perform reconnaissance to make sure that the surroundings were clear of any threats. They were made to report to him every 6 hourly so that they could eliminate any potential threats.

It was nightfall.

There was complete silence in the campsite. Not long after, the only light source was being put out.

"Brother Golden Court, what do you feel about this army?"

From afar, on a plateau, Fang Yuan and Golden Court Dragon God had arrived.

"They are steady like a mountain and are not hasty. They are well-disciplined too! An impressive troop!"

Golden Court Dragon God shook before continuing. "Even you and I are affected by the energy given off by this army. Other demons would surely not dare to approach them!"

"Not just this, but I have seen the energy given off by Xu Ting as well. He has a ring of auspicious energy around him and with the assistance of the water dragon's pearl, he is starting to reveal his dragon entity! He will be a king in the future! In comparison, his father's energy pales!"

Fang Yuan replied. "Xuan Zhen Sect would throw in everything they have!"

"This is where I am confused. After conquering the capital city of Da Chu, Xu Ting would be able to unify the entire Da Chu. By then, what should we do? Should we... leave before things get out of hand?"

Golden Court Dragon God broke the silence.

Hearing him, Fang Yuan nodded his head in agreement.

This dragon god was indeed wise to be able to think of such a step. When the humans rule, everything else would have to give way for them.

After the country is being rebuilt, the brave and courageous generals would have to be contained and nullified. Otherwise, any small trigger might cause a big trouble! It would be a display of might, similar to how Zhu Yuanzhang killed the ministers who had worked hard.

Although there were big changes everywhere, the basic principle of how things work would always remain the same!

Furthermore, there was something more threatening to them! Ministers and generals would require the support of the government and they could be controlled. However, the few gods like them harness power in themselves! If the king could not control them, he would fear them even more!

"With Xuan Zhen Sect sowing discord, we should really think about how to take our leave..."

Fang Yuan did not rebut. Instead, he let out a cold laugh. "Does Xuan Zhen Sect really think that they can expand their influence? Dream on! After clearing out demons and gods like us, the king would target the daoists next."

"Mmm, as long as Xu Ting can successfully invade the capital city of Da Chu, he would be credited for it. Even if we were to take our leave, it would not affect anything. Instead, we might benefit from it..."

The Golden Court Dragon God nodded his head and replied.

As a king, Xu Re would be able to gather dragon energy. They could not only cover up their weaknesses with the dragon energy, they might even strengthen themselves.

"Mm... As demons and gods, we are ultimately not human. However, as long as we understand something, we can still survive!"

Fang Yuan appeared serious as he continued. "The uprising of the humans is the heavenly trend. Humans with dragon energy would rise everywhere in the realm and Xu Ting is just one of them. Although many would pin their hopes on him, he is still not irreplaceable! We need to go with the flow, which is to simply eradicate the evil demons!"

"As long as we can achieve that, we would have followed the heavenly trend. If the people dao's dragon energy decide to wipe us out, we can simply retaliate!"

"You're right, young god!"

Hearing Fang Yuan, the Golden Court Dragon God's heart wavered as though he had understood something important.

Xu Ting was merely a pawn in the heavenly trend and was not representative of the entire people dao. As long as Fang Yuan and the Golden Court Dragon God follow the heavenly trend, nobody could do anything to them.

Furthermore, they would be allowed to strike back if anyone were to touch them.

After all, there would be no more problems once the humans rise up and the true dragons appear among the humans.

"Therefore, this operation would be extremely crucial!"

Fang Yuan continued. "Invading the capital city of Da Chu was initially a mere contest among the humans. However, if any demons were to get themselves involved in the invasion, then we will have to take action! Since we have brought along all our water dwellers with us, it is only a small matter if we have to sacrifice all of them. If the Divine Demon Queen were to stop us, we will still put up our best fight!"

Although the soldiers in the dragon palaces were only good in battles underwater, they could still hold their ground on land; they would merely be a little weaker than they used to be.

However, to Fang Yuan, none of this mattered.

Instead, if the casualty rate of his water dwellers were high, the power of Qi Lake would be weakened. This would be aligned with the heavenly trend and therefore, there was nothing to be pity about!

This was breaking things up into two steps. Firstly, he would continually do good deeds to gain heavenly dao karma. As for the people dao, as long as he did not oppose the heavenly trend, he would not be at risk of anything.

After all, the heavens were cruel. No one could say for sure if the true dragon would come from the Xu Family.

Seeing how Fang Yuan's eyes were glistening, the Golden Court Dragon God shook.

Being so decisive and meticulous as to deal with issues separately in terms of heavenly dao and people dao and having such a deep understanding of the people dao meant that there was no way they could fail!

"With such a potential person among us demons, I have no worries!"

The Golden Court Dragon God let out a sigh and released a signal.

From a big river, troops of water dwellers appeared, forming a military formation.

"Some of the Golden Court Army and An River Army have left behind to take care of the lake and river. I have 12,000 of them reporting here today, and I'll let you command them!!!"

A golden glow appeared on the Golden Court Dragon God's hand and transformed into a dragon scale. With that, he passed the scale to Fang Yuan.

"Do not worry. Just remember, we are here to attack the demons who are opposing the heavenly trend. We will not touch a single human regardless of the situation. I'll leave all those problems to Xu Ting!"

Fang Yuan glanced at the outline of the capital city and laughed. "Let's go!"

...

On the city walls of the capital city of Da Chu.

The Divine Demon Queen was sitting atop the city walls, looking pitiful. However, the guards beside her were ignoring everything. It was weird.

Upon closer look, the guards had a demonic glow in their eyes. As the torches illuminated their faces, black streaks were seen on their faces.

"Reporting, Queen!"

A lieutenant walked up and paid his greetings. "All the soldiers who are willing to listen to your command have arrived! We have obtained more than half of the defences of the city!"

He was indeed a powerful demon to be able to take up the form of a human! An independent powerful demon!

Of course, with the Empress Dowager's assistance and the few demon spies around Wang Xu, it was possible to possess people in the royal palace.

"Alright, this time, we shall make use of the city walls to destroy and wipe out Xu Ting's army. It would be even better if we can capture him!"

The Divine Demon Queen commanded.

"Yes, Ma'am!"

With a cunning laugh, the lieutenant's eyes glistened.

As soon as the demon lieutenant was dismissed, the Divine Demon Queen looked down at the sea of black beneath the city walls and let out a sigh.

The previous fight with Baili Xuandu had weakened the dragon energy, but her demons had suffered a high casualty rate. She had even lost some of her elite demons.

Humans were able to reproduce and get their numbers up quickly. In a few years, a huge troop of soldiers were arriving once more.

Furthermore, this time, there were many elite and capable people assisting the soldiers.

Looking at her own demons, she realised that comparatively, her demons reproduce slower. Even if she were to multiply their numbers by 10 or even 100, she would still lose out in terms of numbers!

"For the demons, I'll have to make do!"

"The good thing is that I have received news that we have located a few islands far from here. These islands have an abundance of spiritual energy. I have already instructed the weaker demons to relocate there. With this, I can at least preserve some of our species..."

The Divine Demon Queen looked towards the direction of Xu Ting's campsite and gave a cunning laugh. "Even if I have to sacrifice all my demons, I must ensure that I destroy the people dao's dragon energy completely and ensure that chaos will break out for the next hundred years to come!"

She had made up her mind.

"Kill!"

At this point in time, there were shoutings and warcries. The Divine Demon Queen turned pale. "Jerk, traitors!"

Beneath the city walls, 20,000 water dwellers formed neat rows.

Witnessing this, the Divine Demon Queen was enraged.

She had initially planned to sacrifice all her demons to destroy the people dao's dragon energy and create chaos.

However, if she were to start a war with the water dwellers, regardless of who would win the war, it was their own internal conflict and the humans would be the one who would benefit from their own conflict!

"Roar! Roar!"

Amidst dragon roars, the silhouette of two water dragons appeared. Fang Yuan transformed into a man with a crown. Together with the Golden Court Dragon God, they looked towards the city walls.

"Qi Lake Dragon God, as a dragon, you are an asset to the demons. Why do you want to seek refuge with the humans?"

The Divine Demon Queen had already lost all hope for the Golden Court Dragon God. Looking at Fang Yuan, she was in disbelief.

"Since this is the heavenly trend, how can I oppose it?"

Fang Yuan waved his hands. "This conversation is meaningless! Attack the city!"

Chapter 317: Vicissitudes

Zhang Han[1] was originally an unemployed young adult who loafed and idled around the capital of Da Chu. He came from a poor family and did not amount to much after he grew up, thus, he relied on shady acts for survival.

However, these few years, life in the capital became worse. The capital became emptier and he lost his livelihood. Coincidentally, the imperial army was recruiting and had very low requirements, hence, Zhang Han enlisted.

Zhang Han was doing guard duty at night.

"Recently, many of the lieutenants and generals have changed...Their eyes have a green glow, so creepy looking!"

The cold wind blew and Zhang Han still felt extremely chilly despite wearing his coat. As he shivered in the cold, he thought of the ladies in Chunfeng Brothel.

"Charge!"

Suddenly, shouts could be heard outside the city gates. Zhang Han came out of his trance and was alarmed by the noises.

"There are rebels attacking our city, quickly defend!"

Under the lieutenant's command, Zhang Han wielded his spear and rushed to the city gates. His hands were trembling in fear.

After he climbed up the city walls and looked down, he was utterly panic-stricken.

From the light of the flames, silhouettes of those below could be discerned. However, they were definitely not humans, each of them was oddly shaped and fully armoured. Some of them even had huge pincers as hands and were extremely vicious looking.

"What are you all waiting for? Kill them!"

The lieutenant hollered and a rain of arrows hit the crustacean soldiers' bodies. However, they were useless as only small sparks could be seen when the arrows bounced off their armour.

"The bow is useless, we have to use crossbows, logs and huge rocks!"

"Boom!"

Huge rocks were thrown from the tall city walls and blood splattered everywhere when these rocks landed.

Even though the crustacean army had scale armours, they could not withstand the logs and rocks crushing them.

"These... these are not humans, they are demons! I quit!"

Beside Zhang Han, a soldier was terrified by the scene and attempted to escape.

"Splurt!"

Blood spewed everywhere as Zhang Han's lieutenant smiled ferociously. With just a slash of his knife, the soldier's head rolled onto the ground.

"Those who try to escape will be killed immediately!"

The lieutenant licked the blood off his knife with enjoyment as he appeared extremely satisfied. The green glow in his eyes sparkled as he further commanded, "What are you waiting for? Continue!"

"Yes, Sir!"

Zhang Han immediately turned his head away as the scene reminded him of the hungry wolf he had seen before when he was young.

The look on the lieutenant's eyes was exactly the same as that wolf's, it was sly and savage looking.

"Kill them all!"

If the 20,000 strong troops were humans, they would have all died when they attacked the city at night.

However, this time around, it was different. The ones attacking were the water dwellers.

With the support of the two Dragon Gods, the water dwellers bravely rushed forward against the raining arrows and logs. Their hands turned into giant pincers or sharp claws as they arrived at the bottom of the city walls and began climbing up.

"Kill!"

One of the crab generals reached the top of the walls and began hammering the wall with his huge pincers. Moments later, part of the wall crumbled and made way for the water dwellers.

The water dwellers immediately rushed forward.

"Die!"

The lieutenant lunged forward and a black glow appeared on his knife, "Demon Wolf Technique, Moon Sword Flurry!"

"Swoosh!"

The knife was as radiant and as sharp as a waxing moon as it sliced the crab general. A large gap appeared on the crab general's chest at once, tons of blood gushed out and he collapsed onto the floor, revealing his original form which was a tiny crab.

"Hahaha!"

The lieutenant's eyes turned red from savagery as he howled to the moon. Black fur grew out from his face like an evil wolf.

"I'm right, a demon!"

Zhang Han's limbs turned weak. As he looked around, he saw many of them savagely howling. They transformed into dholes, wolves, tigers and leopards and fought against the crustacean army. As he watched the bizarre and motley beasts fought, he thought he was dreaming.

"Ah... haha, that's right, I must be dreaming!"

Even though Zhang Han had seen before the Demonic Beast Swarm that fought against Baili Xuandu's troops, he began to laugh crazily.

Zhang Han then threw his spear onto the ground and walked around aimlessly. Suddenly, a strong man with tiger stripes pounced on him and sank its teeth into his neck. Blood spewed everywhere!

...

While the capital was in chaos, Fang Yuan remained leisurely.

"There are indeed demons in the capital, but how many demons can the Queen possibly gather? 3,000? 5,000? We have 20,000 water dwellers, even if all of them were killed, it is not a pity!"

At that moment, many of the crustacean soldiers were severely injured or had died already. While the Golden Court Dragon God was worried, Fang Yuan was laughing beside him.

"What a cold-blooded and heartless young Dragon God!"

The Divine Demon Queen remained silent as she watched the events unfold.

Although she had powerful abilities, her elemental energy had been severely weakened as she had gone against the heavenly trend. Furthermore, she could not stand a chance against the two Dragon Gods.

"I will remember what happened today! Just you wait!"

Moments later, as she saw more demons were being killed, she could not bear it anymore, she finally let out a sharp shrill.

The demons were alarmed by the shrill and immediately transformed into black vapour as they retreated.

"Heh! The pettiness of women!"

Fang Yuan smirked as he saw such.

If a general could not view the soldiers under him as expendables and became irresolute during the key moment, he had failed as a general.

However, perhaps it was because demons were the ones dying in the brawl, there was no other choice for the Divine Demon Queen.

Nevertheless, Fang Yuan would not let this opportunity slip.

On one side, they had numerous considerations. Whereas, on the other side, they had none. Thus, this showed that victory was already established from the start.

"Send down my command, chase after and kill all the remaining demons! Leave the humans alone and just chase them away will do!"

"Boom!"

As the demons retreated, the defences on the city wall fell immediately. A few crab general pushed open the city gates and a huge amount of water dwellers easily swarmed in.

The night in the capital would definitely not be peaceful.

The ruckus near the city walls was loud, lots of soldiers entered the city. They began searching for the demons and small brawls erupted everywhere.

Occasionally, some of the bold and daring families peeked from their windows and saw some odd sights.

For example, tigers and leopards could be seen dashing away as black vapour shrouded them. Many water dwellers were marching on the streets. It was a truly bizarre sight to behold, a sight that one might not even be able to dream of.

There were scholars who immediately recorded, "King Wu's army attacked the capital at night, the capital descended into chaos. Spirits and ghosts paraded the city walls... the commoners dare not leave their house. During midnight, they came into the streets, their presence was vivid, their smell was strong! Fishes, prawns, tigers and leopards could be seen!"

"You... are so vicious!"

The Divine Demon Queen was devastated at such and she almost retched up a stream of blood.

"Wipe out the enemy cleanly, leave no chance for them, the heavenly trend cannot be resisted, such are the vicissitudes of life!" Fang Yuan thought of a poem.

Fang Yuan decisively hollered as a beam of lightning appeared on his hand, "Divine Demon Queen! As you went against the heavenly trend, you must be punished!"

"Kaboom!"

Thunder could be heard as a flash of lightning cut across the sky. A large amount of electrifying lightning immediately surrounded the Divine Demon Queen. They then transformed into a sword and pierced towards her at the speed of light.

"Poof!"

Just when the lightning pierced her, it was as though it had pierced a soap bubble.

The silhouette of the Divine Demon Queen burst and disappeared without a trace.

"An illusion?"

Fang Yuan thought to himself, "After I have spent so much effort preparing for this opportunity, she managed to hide! This demon's cultivation is unpredictably strong!"

"The heavenly trend cannot be resisted, such is the vicissitudes of life..." the Golden Court Dragon God mumbled beside Fang Yuan.

After a while, the Golden Court Dragon God then added, "You should know better!"

Fang Yuan did not hesitate and rushed towards the imperial palace.

Da Chu Imperial Palace.

"Ahhhh!"

The young emperor woke up from his nightmare and shouted, "Grandma! Grandma!"

"What's wrong, my grandson?"

At that moment, it was as though the entire palace was empty, the curtains swayed and evoked a sense of uneasiness.

The shadow of a lady donned in a crown appeared and slowly walked into the palace hall. It was the fox demon transformed as the Empress Dowager.

"Greetings, Empress Dowager!"

The young emperor stood up and paid respects. He was only around 6 to 7 years old, his supple little lips were red and his teeth were flawlessly white. He was extremely cute and lovable.

"Ah... my grandson..."

The Empress Dowager went forward and carried the young emperor. Her eyes turned teary as she said, "We are not related by blood, and yet I feel so close to you after spending time with you. I have never felt this way before, even with the previous two emperors!"

The young emperor kept quiet as he sensed what the Empress Dowager said was very important.

"Sigh... although I was instructed to wreck the imperial palace completely... I can't bear to do so!"

The Empress Dowager caressed the young emperor's cheeks as she continued with mixed emotions, "Being so close to a human... is a sin, sigh... my innocent child! I have already killed and sinned so many times, I really don't wish to sin again!"

"Empress Dowager, what's wrong? Don't scare me..."

The young emperor was frightened and started crying. He immediately screamed for help.

Outside the palace hall, it was totally silent. There was not a single soul.

"Krong! Kong!"

Suddenly, the dignified noise of a dragon could be heard.

"Sigh..."

The Empress Dowager could only give a cold smile as she hugged the young emperor, "My baby, you must depend on yourself from now on!"

"Empress Dowager?"

After they hugged, the young emperor called her softly. However, there was no response.

He pushed her away slightly and her whole body fell over. Her body was stiff and she had passed away!

Beside the Empress Dowager's corpse, a white glow emerged and transformed into a white-coloured fox. The fox turned back and look, its eyes were filled with emotions. Suddenly, a flash of lightning struck through the palace hall. The white fox immediately collapsed onto the floor, its fur was burnt and it had evidently died.

"Ahhhh!!!"

The young emperor's eyes turned white and fainted.

...

Fifth Month, 9th year of Yong An.

Xu Ting led his troops and surrounded the capital. On the second day, hundreds of officials in the capital urged the emperor to surrender!

It was a new page in the official historical records. As for other bizarre events, it was only detailed in non-official records of history, it was barely mentioned in the official historical records.

In the Sixth Month, Xu Ren moved his imperial court to the capital to prepare for the abdication.

In the Seventh Month, due to uncertain causes, Xu Ren suddenly fell very ill. Three days later, he passed away. Xu Ting then succeeded the position of king. In the Twelfth Month, the young emperor was forced to abdicate. Xu Ting succeeded the throne and formed the Wu Country. He honoured the late Xu Ren as the founding father of the empire and rewarded his officials and generals. He continued to bolster his troops in preparation to conquer the northern part of Da Chu and thus, defeat the last military occupied town of Da Chu. Hence, he would rule the entire Da Chu and step closer to ruling the world.

Chapter 318: Fall Out

The Year of Hong Wu.

The previous capital city of Da Chu had now been renamed to Wu Xing.

Although they had a lot of rebuilding to do, the city was after all a royal capital. With their new Emperor, the lively atmosphere was restored and more and more people came to the city and roamed the streets.

In the royal palace.

The original young Emperor was casually given an appointment of a lord and could no longer remain in the palace. He was relocated to a specific holding in the palace and would spend the rest of his life there.

In the royal garden, Li Luan stared at a plum blossom quietly.

With the accession of Xu Ting, Li Luan was given the title of a spiritual concubine. She was ranked after the Queen and the Royal Concubine, but her servants were comparable to those serving the Royal Concubine. Therefore, the treatment which she received was still rather good.

What shocked her was the fact that Xu Ting had become a completely different man after the passing of his father, Xu Ren.

Although he was still courageous and brave, he became increasingly unpredictable.

"Lady!"

A eunuch rushed towards her in baby steps. "Previously, the Emperor had agreed to accompany you to enjoy the plum blossoms, but now that he is in a bad mood, he will not be coming!"

"I'll respect that decision!"

Li Luan bowed before signalling to a servant. The servant brought over a piece of gold ingot.

Such a heavy ingot made the eunuch grin from ear to ear.

In such a big palace, everyone had to fight for their own survival and to survive, they had to earn gold or silver.

Although Li Luan felt sorrowful inside, she did not display her emotions. "What is affecting the Emperor's mood?"

The eunuch thought for a while. After all, it was no secret. Without further hesitation, he answered. "I did not get the full story, but it seems like the messenger who was sent to convince the Xinfeng Army to surrender has returned..."

"Baili Xuandu only has 6 prefectures under him. How dare he go against us, with more than half of the country in our possession?"

Li Luan was shocked but did not probe further; the eunuch could not possibly know more.

"There's nothing else!"

After dismissing the eunuch, there was a look of worry on Li Luan's face.

Indeed, not long after, more news came in.

The military governor of the Xinfeng Army, Baili Xuandu, had rejected the offer to surrender. Instead, he had directly contacted the stronger districts in Qi Country and Liang Country [1] with the intention to borrow their troops!

Of course, this had angered Xu Ting. He had decided to muster 10,000 soldiers to settle this once and for all!

This would be the final war for Wu Country!

"Although there is chaos in Qi Country and Liang Country, if they were to unite with the Xinfeng Army, they would be a force to be reckoned with... I should advise the Emperor!"

Li Luan had a solemn look on her face as she mumbled to herself.

However, Xu Ting was the reason why the other countries could possibly unite!

He had enlisted in his small prefecture when he was 10. But now, he was only in his 20s and yet, he had already managed to establish Wu Country! No one in history could match up to his achievements!

If they did not combine forces, this person would take over the entire world!

With this common objective, they were easily swayed by Baili Xuandu's words. In addition, they might have been affected by demons casting spells on them.

Thinking about demons, Li Luan appeared down.

Although she was the concubine of the Emperor, there were many restrictions and therefore, she felt more restrained than she was before. She could only dream of looking for the two dragon gods to discuss their plans.

"In history, demons only appear when the country is weakened! Now, Wu Country is prospering with the auspicious vibes. With the assistance from the powerful daoists from Xuan Zhen Sect, there are restrictions everywhere in the royal palace. All dao techniques are banned and I am not even allowed to send a letter. The dragon gods would naturally not risk their lives to come here..."

Deep in her thoughts, Li Luan took out a squarish napkin and wrote a few lines of words before handing it over to a servant. "Leave the palace and throw this in any river will do!"

"Yes Ma'am!"

The servant respectfully took her leave. Looking at her back view, Li Luan felt uneasy.

...

In the royal study.

Xu Ting now had a moustache and an awe-inspiring look. He looked different than he was before.

At this point in time, in the study, there were a few other daoist talking. "... Therefore, the uprising of the humans is just merely part of the heavenly trend. Emperor, by following the heavenly trend, you can start a new empire!"

"Are the demons really experiencing a downfall?"

Xu Ting was hesitant.

After all, he could only achieve all that he had through the help of demons. This explained his hesitation and scepticism.

Seeing this, the head of Xuan Zhen Sect continued. "Daoist are still human. We are still passionate and loyal. However, we must always be on guard against the cunning schemes of the demons..."

Although the demons had invested fate energy on Xu Ting, the increasingly concentrated people dao's dragon energy had become more prominent. Together with the energy from Emperor Sun, Xu Ting was confident.

Now, he wanted to end the source of all his power!

"Let me think about it..."

Xu Ting was still indecisive.

The head of Xuan Zhen Sect saw this, and his eyes glistened.

He only approached the Emperor because he had the confidence to convince him and the fact that the Divine Predictor Elder had planned everything out for him.

"Emperor!"

At this point in time, a guard requested to see the Emperor as he presented a squarish napkin.

Seeing it, Xu Ting's face was filled with anger. "What audacity! How dare she spy on our secrets and help the outsiders! Dragon gods indeed, demons indeed!"

The sect head of Xuan Zhen Sect could not help but laugh inside.

He knew that the spiritual concubine might not have any ulterior motives for delivering the letter, but even so, it was a fact that she was communicating and colluding with outsiders!

Furthermore, she was communicating with a dragon god! This was even more severe.

After all, the previous country, Da Chu, was a prime example of how things could go wrong.

"Pass down my command..."

Xu Ting paced. After a while, he calmly gave his command. "By infringing the rules of the palace, the spiritual concubine will now be demoted to become a servant. Relocate her to Chunnuan Court so that she can reflect on her wrongdoings!"

This was, in fact, throwing her into isolation.

The sect head of Xuan Zhen Sect was secretly elated upon hearing this news.

"Also... Instruct those that are constructing dragon temples across the prefecture to stop their construction. Xuan Zhen, you shall be the messenger. I want the Qi Lake Dragon God and the Golden Court Dragon God to start eradicating all the evil gods and demons!"

Through advice from the daoist, Xu Ting now knew that in order to deal with the gods, he had to first curb the faith towards these gods.

Furthermore, as Emperor, he had the protection of Emperor energy and it would be extremely hard to harm him. Therefore, he had nothing to fear.

"Yes... Yes, Emperor!"

Xuan Zhen [2] knelt down and was overjoyed.

In his consciousness, he could see the silhouette of Kong Luo flashing by.

This daoist was already submissive. He could take the Green Qiu Sword back after forcing the dragon gods into submission.

...

The Fourth Month of the Year of Hong Wu.

Xu Ting had mustered his 10,000-strong troop and was advancing towards Xinfeng Army.

Baili Xuandu could only hastily defend. Even if he were to receive aid from Qi Country and Liang Country, his mental instability would mean that he could not mount a proper defence. At most, he could only gather 50,000 to defend with all their might.

At the same time, the sect head of Xuan Zhen Sect had led a group of elite elders and had arrived at Qi Lake.

"We must take revenge for our late elders!"

As the few elder daoists gathered, their eyes burned with rage as they glared at the imperial decree on Xuan Zhen's hands.

The decree was 3 inches long and 1 inch wide. It was a pure yellow and there were dragon engravings on the scroll of the decree. Around there dragons were decorative clouds, giving the decree a majestic vibe from a dragon.

"We are tasked by the Emperor to do this and therefore will be strengthened by the blessings of the Imperial Court. The soldiers of the Qi Lake are severely injured from the previous battle, so this is our chance!"

Divine Predictor Elder stroked his beard. "I have already shielded us from the detection of the two dragon gods. This is the time to strike!"

"Alright! Let us reduce him to ashes!"

The few elders exchanged glances with a look of hatred on their faces.

"Reduce them to ashes? That's too good of a deal for them. We need to make them agree to become our servants for the next thousand years to come before we shall kill them to eat and make use of..."

"Let's go!"

The few daoists transformed into streaks of light and disappeared from the surface of the lake.

...

Fang Yuan could not detect anything.

At this point in time, he was looking at the big turtle ahead of him and was speechless. "Even though my water soldiers are dead, I am still the Qi Lake Dragon God, an official one nonetheless... How dare you guys go against me?"

There were numerous living things in Qi Lake and there were about 20,000 of them worthy to be regarded as demons!

Among the 20,000, half of them were working in the dragon palace. The other half were lone demons who would not submit to the dragon god.

Seeing that the dragon god's water soldiers were wiped out, these lone demons came out to cause trouble and were vying for the position of water god as well!

Seeing this, Fang Yuan was speechless but secretly, he was ecstatic.

This was the perfect excuse for him to wipe out those who were unwilling to submit to him!

There were too many demons in Qi Lake. Even if he were to kill 8,000 of them, there would be 10,000 remaining. Therefore, he could afford to go on a killing spree. At least, he would have to kill the leader of the rebellious group of demons.

"You... the heavens are blind!"

The turtle retracted its head and 4 limbs as a voice travelled from the shell. "As the dragon god, why are you helping the humans and sacrificing 8,000 of our demons on the battlefield? Do you think you are worthy of the position?"

"Keke... Is this the reason for your rebellion?"

Fang Yuan appeared calm as the Sundering Thunder Sword appeared in his hands. "Will you ever understand the reasons behind my actions?"

The battle at the capital city resulted in 20,000 water dwellers being killed. However, amidst all the bloodshed, he had gained huge amounts of karma.

With recognition from the heavens, he could undoubtedly continue to be the dragon god!

The rebellion of the water dwellers only gave him a reason to continue his killing of evil demons.

As soon as he swung his sword out, a streak of lightning struck through the shell. There was a shriek coming from inside the shell and a flash which disappeared immediately.

"To think about it, all of these is enough..."

After killing them, Fang Yuan looked at the glow above him and smiled. However, his expression quickly changed. "However... It is worrying as to what is happening to Xu Ting!"

He had progressed too quickly. He should have experienced another setback, but that has yet to actualise. This must be due to the fact that he had the protection of the dragon energy!

To those who invest fate energy in him, it was a depressing thing.

"Does he really think that the whole world is his just because he is an emperor of a mere country?"

Fang Yuan snickered. "I need to let you experience retribution so that you'll understand my power!"

As his spiritual will shook, he became a streak of light and arrived at the lakeside.

A few daoists were standing in a group with scheming looks on their faces. One of them suddenly raised the imperial decree towards the sky and shouted. "This is the command of the Emperor. Qi Lake Dragon God, kneel down before the decree!"

As soon as he spoke, all of them could feel a huge pressure and an unbelievable might.

This was the power of dragon energy, harnessed from half of the entire territory of Da Chu and the citizens living in it!

Chapter 319: Retribution

"The emperor decrees, "As the emperor, all lands are mine and everyone is under me! As spirits, you should respect the dragon energy! Hence, I specially command both of you, Qi Lake Dragon God and Golden Court Dragon God, to immediately assist Xuan Zhen Sect to banish the evil gods' temples!"

The head of Xuan Zhen Sect looked at Fang Yuan and read the imperial decree out loud. He raised the decree and smirked at Fang Yuan, "So how... are you going to oppose the decree?"

"He thinks I am a tool? He wants me to clear the evil gods and the demons but doesn't provide any returns for me? Furthermore, he wants me to submit under Xuan Zhen Sect, does he think I am a fool?" Fang Yuan thought.

Fang Yuan could not contain his laughter after hearing such and guffawed out loud.

"How dare you disobey the imperial decree! Die!"

Xuan Zhen and his daoists immediately hollered.

"Roar!"

The roar of a dragon could be vaguely heard. Streaks of green and violet energy gathered in the imperial decree and formed the shape of a golden green dragon. Its might was daunting.

It was the people dao true dragon energy, it could overpower all kinds of power!

Such an energy even made Fang Yuan's god dao divine light dimmed a little.

"Cast arrays!"

Xuan Zhen and his daoists were allowed to cast their arrays as the ban was lifted. Their power was uninhibited and they formed an array surrounding Fang Yuan, trapping him inside.

"Humans will rise as per the heavenly trend while demons will fall! Demon, you shall be suppressed!"

The elderly daoist was very solemn. He then loudly chanted, "The 33rd head of Xuan Zhen Sect invites the fate energy of our rare treasures and ancestors to assist!"

"Woong, wooong!"

After a flash of black light, a small stone pagoda appeared on his right palm.

The pagoda had seven layers, it was carved from black stones and delicately designed. Each side of the pagoda shined mysteriously and was inscribed with runes. It could suppress fate energy!

"Demon Suppressing Pagoda?"

Fang Yuan drooped his eyelids, "You all have even brought out this item! Aren't you all afraid your sect's foundation will be damaged and your sect will then perish?"

That item was Xuan Zhen Sect's secret weapon, it was a rare treasure that could suppress fate energy!
The moment they brought out this item, it meant that they were willing to use their all for Fang Yuan to die.

"We are boosted by the dragon energy and the Demon Suppressing Pagoda, which are also complemented by the 4 Emblems Spirit Locking Array! Whereas, you have gone against the orders and lost your crustacean army, you have no chance of defeating us!"

The Divine Predictor Elder sneered, "Isolate! Seal off! Start!"

Xuan Zhen immediately threw the Demon Suppressing Pagoda.

The Demon Suppressing Pagoda magnified when it reached the peak of the array. It radiated brightly from all sides, streaks of light formed into chains and entered the array as it went for Fang Yuan.

"Oh!"

Fang Yuan's body quivered for a moment. Inside the array, he felt his energy from Qi Lake was isolated away.

The dragon energy suppressed his divine position, the Demon Suppressing Pagoda targeted its body, while the 4 Emblems Spirit Locking Array sealed off his heavenly energy and energy from Qi Lake!

"Should I inflict retribution?"

Fang Yuan mumbled to himself; he had a greater understanding of fate energy.

People dao were strong on their own and self-reliant, whatever Fang Yuan did previously was a form of support! However, once he crossed a threshold, he would immediately be attacked!

Of course, such a predicament was also due to Xu Ting's character and Xuan Zhen Sect's influence. However, these were already trifle reasons.

Nevertheless, as he kept to the baseline and planned beforehand, he would not suffer great losses! He might even survive!

"But... how can I make this the way I want it to be!" Fang Yuan thought.

With such a thought, his gaze turned piercingly cold, "I will not use this opportunity to save my life, I will fully use it to inflict retribution! Anyway, my main reason for coming to this realm this time was to reap as much as I can, why should I care about what happens afterwards!"

"Quickly!"

Although the Divine Predictor Elder and the head of Xuan Zhen Sect did not know what the Dragon God was thinking of, they felt uneasy and hollered to hurry up.

"Haha... it's too late!"

Fang Yuan's eyes burnt like fire and green energy from his head formed into a beam of clear light, causing the array to falter as the beam seeped out. He sent a command through it, "Fate energy, return! Quick!"

"Kaboom!"

Suddenly, the sky darkened. Lightning flashed and thunder roared!

...

Xinfeng Prefecture.

Xinfeng Prefecture was Baili Xuandu's hometown. At that moment, Xu Ting's 10,000-strong army stormed into the prefecture. Numerous district towns surrendered before the battle even started, their power was fearsome.

Inside a tent at the military camp.

"Your Majesty, two more districts have surrendered to us!"

"Your Majesty, numerous generals in Xinfeng Army have secretly contacted me! They are willing to surrender!"

...

Good news kept coming up continuously, however, that was normal as Wu Country held the biggest power.

As Baili Xuan still stubbornly held on to six remote prefectures, he slowly lost his followers.

"Great! With this two prefectures conquered, the capital of Xinfeng Prefecture would be a piece of cake!"

Xu Ting was overjoyed.

The capital was Baili Xuandu's nucleus area, the moment it was conquered, Baili Xuandu would have no chance of rising back to power.

"Pass down my command... reward the whole army with meat! With the soldiers full, our strength is even greater and we will annihilate Xinfeng army!"

"Very wise, your Majesty!"

The officials below greatly respected Xu Ting and were elated, they worshipped him at once.

"Kill them!"

Suddenly, the trotting noise of a horse and shouts could be heard from the northwestern side of the military camp.

"Reporting!"

One of the bodyguards quickly reported, "2,000 cavalry soldiers were spotted 3 miles outside the military camp! They seem to be charging towards us!"

"2,000 cavalry soldiers? That's almost Baili Xuandu's entire strength!"

The officials were astonished. However, Xu Ting remained still and commanded, "This Baili Xuandu loves to employ sly tricks, however..... the good always triumphs over the evil! Send down my command, each battalion stay at where they are and prepare for battle! Anyone who steps out of the military camp will be killed, regardless if he is a general or a soldier!"

"Also, disarm and detain all the newly surrendered soldiers, in case they were pretending to surrender!"

"Yes, your Majesty!"

After Xu Ting's commands were relayed, the whole military camp became quiet. Some of the battalions that had some commotion calmed down at once.

"Very wise, your Majesty!"

Some of the generals were very convinced and immediately went out to deploy the defences.

Such an attack was meant to confuse the unprepared troops. However, now that the 10,000 men strong army was not reacting, the 2,000 men strong cavalry could at most attack a few tents before their whole cavalry would be annihilated. Unless another few tens of thousands of cavalry soldiers came over, there stood no chance of defeating this securely defended military camp. They were basically courting death.

To Xu Ting, Baili Xuandu was his wit's end, it was his desperate last attempt.

"Your Highness, look..."

On a hill outside the military camp, the Divine Demon Queen looked at the scene with a few of her foxes.

After the camp was on guard, they saw the 2,000 men strong cavalry let out a roar and charged forward fearlessly instead of retreating.

"Baili Xuandu had already lost his dragon energy, this is his last attempt! If it doesn't succeed, he will die for his cause!"

The Divine Demon Queen's face turned grim and said, "I will cast an array and use the 10,000 Demon Blood Sacrifice to obtain the help!"

"Your Highness!"

The demons were absolutely dismayed.

The 10,000 Demon Blood Sacrifice spell was a taboo amongst demons, it could not be frivolously used. The user would definitely suffer from severe rebound and retribution, with the Divine Demon Queen's current health, she would definitely die!

"I am not doing it to help the humans, but for the demons!"

The Divine Demon Queen sighed and continued, "Us demons are experiencing a downfall; I am finally clear of the heavenly trend. The rise of humans cannot be stopped, whatever we have done merely added fuel to the fire... the heavens makes a fool out of demons!"

As she lectured, her expression turned even more sorrowful, "But, I rather suffer beyond redemption than let the humans have an easy life... This Xu Ting has one of the strongest dragon energy amongst the humans, if he is defeated, the chaos would continue at least ten years. This will give enough time for us demons to survive and relocate far away! I have already decided, say no more!"

"Your Highness!"

Numerous demons wailed bitterly.

The Divine Demon Queen's face was expressionless, she cast an array and sprinkled some of her vital blood on it.

"I have already collected the resentment of 10,000 demons from Chu Country's capital, now I just need a lead... which is me! After this battle, whether victory or defeat, you all shall quickly retreat. Bring the young ones and escape to a faraway land..."

She sighed and stepped into the array.

Flaming!

Immediately, blood red flames mixed with horrifying streaks of black vapour soared and engulfed the Divine Demon Queen.

Under the cries of the many demons, a blood red beam of light shot up the sky.

In an instant, dark clouds loomed and a raging tempest brewed.

"Huuuuuuu! Hruuuuuuuu!"

The strong gale howled and swept along sands and stones. The wind was blowing from the northwest and brought along numerous dark clouds which covered the entire sky.

Baili Xuandu was immediately delighted, "Heaven is helping me! Charge!"

"Kill them all!"

2,000 cavalry soldiers charged into the military camp with a strong might and a massacre erupted. Whereas the opposing Wu army was blinded by the sandstorm and panic-stricken, they immediately fell apart!

"Demonic Wind! Demonic Wind!"

Inside the main tent, Xu Ting's face turned red and spat out blood as he saw the tempest.

After he spat out that mouthful of blood, his heart felt empty at once. It was as though he had lost something of extreme importance.

"Reporting! Baili Xuandu's army is aided by the raging tempest, our troops are in chaos!"

"Reporting! The northern camp is falling, they seem to be calling for help! They are charging towards our main body of soldiers, General An Jie is currently trying to suppress them!"

"Your Majesty..."

One of his bodyguards came forward and asked, "Should the generals accompany your Majesty to retreat?"

"No way!"

Xu Ting clenched his teeth, "I am the heart of this army, I will never retreat! We will be defeated once I retreat! Send down my command, it is still the same, each battalion stays at where they are! Concentrate on fighting the opponents!"

He thought clearly, even if they had the help of the Demonic Wind, his troops would at most be confounded for at most a while. Afterwards, they would be back to their usual form and be able to defeat the cavalry.

However, Xu Ting had not realised, at the corner of the tent, Kong Luo kept his head down and was in an emotional turmoil. It seemed that he had activated a certain talisman.

"I am not close to Xu Ting, once Xuan Zhen Sect returns to power, I will definitely be killed! Although I am not close to him anymore, he still puts me at his side, he is testing my loyalty! Now, let's see what Baili Xuandu can do!" Kong Luo thought.

Kong Luo wiped his face with his sleeve, and it was as though his eyes burnt with fire.

"Kill!"

Suddenly, the shouts came closer and closer. It was as though the enemies had eyes that could see through, they were charging directly to the emperor's tent!

"Impossible... how could they be so accurate?"

Xu Ting walked out of his tent. When he saw the shadows of the cavalry and the flames, he almost fell to the ground.

Inside the military camp, all the tents were similar and it was like a maze. How could they easily recognise which tent Xu Ting was in?

However, the enemies had accomplished such! His stubbornness to leave was now a joke!!!

Chapter 320: The Escape

The 2,000 elite soldiers troop went straight for his tent with the aid of the raging tempest.

If Fang Yuan was here, he would surely comment. "This is like the Battle of Okehazama in Japan!"

In the period of war in Japan, the Tokaidos' warrior Imagawa Yoshimoto led 45,000 soldiers to invade the Owari Province. The leader of Owari Province, Oda Nobunaga, only had 4,000 troops and was dealing with internal conflicts when the invasion began.

At that time, Oda Nobunaga led his elite forces to the Battle of Okehazama and with the help of a storm, they managed to take Imagawa Yoshimoto's head amidst the chaos. From then on, the ruler of Tokaido, Imagawa Yoshimoto, disappeared from the face of the earth, giving Oda Nobunaga his reputation!

In all of these, the most important event was taking the enemy leader's head!

Comparing with history, they had similar elite troops, similar aid from nature and similarly, everything laid on Xu Ting.

In the Battle of Okehazama, if Imagawa Yoshimoto did not die, then Oda Nobunaga would have worsened the situation.

It was the same now!

If Xu Ting could survive this counterattack, disregarding Wu Country's reserved army, he could simply make use of his 10,000-strong army here to wipe out Baili Xuandu and company!

"Emperor, quickly leave!"

His personal guard, Xu Jian, shouted with haste. "I'll block them!"

The remaining few guards ran out. However, in a short while, their cries could be heard. After a few slices, their body parts flew everywhere.

Witnessing what just happened, Xu Ting was at a loss.

Xu Jian was part of the Xu Family. He was always loyal and would willingly sacrifice himself to protect Xu Ting over the years. He had survived many wars and he thought that he would be enjoying his life after this final war. No one knew that he would die here.

"Kill!"

Seeing that the Emperor of Wu was here, all the cavalry units were dumbfounded. Baili Xuandu led his soldiers to break through the defence and surrounded the tent. "Xu Ting... It's been a long time!"

"You're right... It's been a long time!"

Seeing his ministers and servants getting killed one by one, Xu Ting finally snapped out of his trance.

"Who would've thought... that you would be the one to kill me!"

Even Emperors were still human and vulnerable!

Even though he might have 10,000 soldiers outside, they would not be able to save him in time!

Xu Ting looked around. He then saw Kong Luo getting up to his feet and killing a few daoists from Xuan Zhen Sect. Although He sort of understood Kong Luo's actions, he was in no position to say anything.

He could only sigh. "Who would've known that I, Xu Ting, would die here!!"

As he saw the armoured guards walking towards him, he broke into laughter. "I am the Emperor! How could I die under your hands, you useless people!"

In that instant, he plucked out his Purple Suo Sword and sliced his neck!"

"Splatter!"

Blood spurted out from his neck as he fell to the ground. His body twitched a little and finally, he was put to an eternal rest.

"Rumble!"

As a purple streak of lightning flashed across, thunder crackled in the skies and a storm started to brew...

...

Qi Lake.

Amidst the thunder, a dragon's roar could be heard coming from the North. Streaks of green and purple formed the shape of a dragon which rushed towards the 4 Emblems Spirit Locking Array.

"Is this... dragon energy?"

As the Divine Predictor Elder screamed, the Demon Suppressing Pagoda shook and started to crumble.

A few old daoists started to spit out mouthfuls of blood. Looking at the Qi Lake Dragon God within, they were shocked.

'Who could know... the retribution would be so intense to the point that Xu Ting has died?'

Fang Yuan caught wind of the news too and was shocked. "Ah, there's intervention from demons!"

If demons did not intervene, Xu Ting would at most suffer a defeat and could likely preserve his life. However, now that the demons did interfere, there was no way he could live!

"To me, this is disadvantageous!"

Fang Yuan let out a bitter laugh.

He could still deal with it using his heavenly karma if he only weakened Xu Ting's fate energy.

However, although unintentional, he had led to the destruction of the people dao's dragon energy. Even if he used up all his karma, he would not be able to redeem himself.

"This evil demon... what did you do?"

Seeing the dragon energy circling Fang Yuan as streaks of lightning ripped across the sky, the head of Xuan Zhen Sect started to shiver in fear and almost spat out blood.

"This is not good... The dragon energy of Emperor Wu is destroyed. Although we are not the ones who caused it, we are still linked to it. The fate energy of our sect will be affected as well, and we might need to undergo a tribulation!"

As he attempted to predict the future, Divine Predictor Elder spat out a mouthful of black blood.

The head of Xuan Zhen Sect started to feel dizzy.

He had just gone all out to use the treasures of his sect to subdue Fang Yuan, but now, everything had gone to waste! And, in fact, they had to undergo a tribulation!

Did all of these happen just because they wanted to pressurize this dragon god? Everything felt unreal.

At this point in time, there were changes happening to Fang Yuan's body.

"This concentrated dragon energy is extremely pure... Regardless, after reaping the dragon energy from Xu Ting, I'd have gotten more than I can ask for..."

Fang Yuan's thoughts wandered as he thought of other things.

"Now, I can either try to spend all that I have gained to reduce my sins and I might even escape alive from the heavenly tribulation, but what for?"

He broke into laughter as he transformed into his horned dragon form. As he opened his mouth, he swallowed the purple-coloured dragon energy.

This dragon energy was the result of condensing fate energy of the people dao. However, in reality, it was a form of energy in the realm.

With the assistance of the dragon energy, his horned dragon body started to expand with unsightly bulges appearing on his body. With an explosion, 4 dragon claws with 3 talons each appeared!

A horned dragon was the younger version of a dragon with no claws and a single horn on its head.

However, now that 4 claws had emerged, Fang Yuan had successfully transformed from a horned dragon to a water dragon!

The 8th Transformation of the 9 Steps of Dragon Transformation Formula! The Water Dragon Transformation!

"Why should I be afraid to stack up my sins in this realm? I shall reap a whole lot before leaving and end everything!"

The water dragon was green with hints of gold. As it roared, it flew up into the sky and came before the head of Xuan Zhen Sect. Swiping its claws, it shouted. "Die!"

This was a real dragon's claw. With the power of the dragon energy, he could overpower all kinds of power. This was in addition to his original powers.

No matter how powerful the head of Xuan Zhen Sect was, he could only place all his faith in the Demon Suppressing Pagoda.

"Buzz! Buzz!"

The small black pagoda on his head started to move and released a glow of protection around it. As the dragon roared, the protection shattered like glass breaking.

"Crash!"

Without reservation, the dragon claw swiped at the forehead of the head of Xuan Zhen Sect. The huge power of the dragon struck at that single moment, destroying the soul of the sect head!

"Sect Head?"

Two elders rushed forward. With the flick of his dragon claws, the sword essence of the Water Sword and Fire Sword appeared, transforming them into a block of ice and a pillar of fire.

"Where do you think you're going?"

There were sparks of electricity around his body as he came before the Divine Predictor Elder.

"Evil demon!"

The Divine Predictor Elder shouted. "I will perish with you!"

With a flash appearing on his hand, he had created a few magical talismans which were shimmering as though they were about to explode.

"Whoosh!"

Fang Yuan was quicker than him. With the Thunder Sword flying out, a single lunge through his forehead was all it took to end it all.

"After attaining the Water Dragon Transformation and with my 8 Gates Sword Array, I only have a few worthy threats in this realm and can be considered a divine demon!"

After his killing spree, Fang Yuan started to become worried as he looked at his own stats window:

"Name: Fang Yuan

Race: Water Dragon

Essence: 42

Spirit: 42

Magic: 50

Profession: ???

Cultivation: ???

Technique: [9 Steps of Dragon Transformation Formula (8th Transformation)], [Weather Controlling Technique (Grade 2)], [Natural Magical Strength (Grade 4)], [8 Gates Sword Array (4th Sword) (1%)]

Skill: [Medicine (Level 3)], [Botany (Level 5)]"

Amidst the destruction, the vibes of a tribulation were felt as it filled the air. "Looking at all the sins I have committed, it seems like I won't be able to redeem myself even after killing the sect head! I'm afraid I have to escape!"

Of course, Xuan Zhen Sect's involvement in Xu Ting's death was minimal and yet, they had suffered such a destructive ending. Fang Yuan, the cause of everything, would surely experience something more intense.

As he was killing the daoists, many huge scales appeared, covering the sky. Although the tribulation was imminent, it could not strike at this moment.

Fang Yuan's hair stood on its ends.

After committing such a sin and not using his karma to redeem himself, he would surely experience a tribulation.

Dark clouds started to gather in the skies. This was due to the fact that he had just attained a breakthrough in his transformation and it was the heavens merely responding to it to destroy his spirit.

"Of course... I am stronger than the Xuan Zhen Sect. They cannot run and escape, but I can!"

He had planned to retrieve the dragon energy back to reap the rewards for it. As for the outcome? He had long planned for it.

As thunder crackled in the skies above him, he laughed and drew a circle with his hands. Not long after, a tunnel seemed to have appeared.

"If I leave now, it would be such a waste to let my dragon's body be destroyed!"

The Yin Spirit of the water dragon appeared as he snapped his fingers.

A streak of fire landed on the body of the water dragon and flames broke out. A golden-green imperial order and a water dragon pearl appeared. This was the essence of a water dragon.

"I cannot remove other imperial orders and other dragon pearls from this world... However, these two objects are strongly related to me... I can attempt to bring them with me!"

As the space in mid-air started to distort, an invisible tunnel appeared.

Thinking about it, Fang Yuan placed his people dao karma atop the imperial order and the water dragon pearl, forming a golden portal.

The water dragon pearl was translucent and it was as though there was a small golden-green dragon within it. It was awe-inspiring and with a single touch, it quickly flew into the portal.

"Rumble!"

As the earth trembled, a streak of purple lightning struck down!

"The heavens are enraged!"

The dragon pearl could smoothly enter the portal, but the imperial order was met with resistance.

After all, it was created by this realm and therefore, it could not simply leave the realm.

"That's alright!"

Fang Yuan's Yin Spirit stretched out his hands and grabbed the imperial order. With a swing, it flew into the sky.

"Kaboom!"

A golden-green screen appeared as it deflected the lightning strikes from the skies.

"Crackle!"

As the streak of lightning struck on the screen, there was only a small crack; the whole screen was still intact.

"This is indeed the power of an imperial order! It seems like it can withstand 2 to 3 more strikes!"

With a sigh, Fang Yuan hesitated no more as he stepped into the golden portal.

"Buzz!"

With a glow, the golden portal disappeared.

"Rumble!"

In the next moment, streaks of lightning rained down, destroying the screen created by the imperial order effortlessly.

Furthermore, there was a mysterious vibration spreading across the realm and towards the direction which Fang Yuan had left.

...

Da Qian Empire.

Within a cave in the Changli Mountain Hollow.

"Crumble!"

Shattered rocks started to fly about. Fang Yuan looked up into the sky and squinted his eyes.

"Indeed... the seal has yet to be broken. I've guessed correctly!"

He had been very fortunate in his journey in the Water Realm. He had reaped a lot from the realm even when encountering a tribulation.

Of course, the most important was the fact that after spending 10 over years in the Water Realm, only a few days passed in Da Qian Empire. He could still make it!

"They want to sacrifice us and explore the Changli Mountain Hollow for themselves!"

Fang Yuan snickered. "I'll make sure you fail!"

His expression changed as he felt dizziness in his Yin Spirit. "I did not expect such a backlash from the Water Realm... Indeed, by reaping all these energies from these realms, I would either make it or break it!"