

F.D Emperor 1251

Chapter 1251 The Top 5 Physiques

After the debacle with the rebellion, Wang Wei contacted Xiao Tiandi, and they chose a meeting place. However, Wang Wei did not directly head there but detoured to a small temple near the border of Buddhism Territory. He ensured no one was around, and he isolated the space before talking to a statue of Maitreya.

"Forgive the intrusion, but I came to warn you of something. I don't know if you are already aware, but I think I should mention it just in case," Wang Wei stated before telling her about the Brilliant Smile Emperor and his worry. He waited for a response, but nothing occurred.

Wang Wei sighed and was about to live in disappointment when the statue released a golden light for a few seconds before returning to normal. Wang Wei sighed in relief and bowed again before teleporting away. His next destination was a small domain called the Red Plateau Land, situated between the Undead Emperor and Five Feather Phoenix's territory.

This place was an indication of these people's relationship as members of both their factions often clashed on this border. Many outlaws, including the rebellion, have bases on the Red Plateau Land as it was an excellent hiding place and a great way to gather information. Of course, these two parasites have cleaned up this place a few times. As such, it was a skill to be able to keep a base in this place as you needed to evade the sudden clean-ups.

"The resentment in this place is intense," Wang Wei noted as he observed this place. "Now that I think about it, the overall resentment of the entire Eternal Ascension World should have been much higher."

The parasites and the two suns killed many people to keep their reign. Additionally, they created a second potent source of resentment by exploiting most of the world's resources, turning the lives of mortals and cultivators into a living hell.

Wang Wei raised his head to look at the entire world's destiny. 'It's indeed odd. The resentment should be noticeable and affect the overall destiny of the whole world, but there is nothing. Did Supreme Unity and Maitreya deal with it?' Such an explanation does not make sense. Supreme Unity wants the world to be weak, while Maitreya does not, meaning such an issue should have been one where they balance each other, thus ensuring nothing was done, which would, in fact, benefit Supreme Unity.

'Alright, let's add it to the list of things to investigate,' Wang Wei thought as he headed to his destination. He soon found himself above a small lake with a pagoda at the center, surrounded by flowers and a rainbow arc above.

"Since when were you so cultured," Wang Wei commented.

"You don't know me well enough to make that statement," Xiao Tiandi replied. He wore a luxurious black and purple robe, a gold ornament to hold his bun, and a jade hanging on his waist. His appearance was leagues compared to when Wang Wei last saw him, but more importantly was his eyes, demeanor, and aura.

His depressing aura was gone, replaced by a bright, lively young master who loved art and poetry. His eyes were full of life, full of passion, determination, and a sense of duty — a sense of purpose. Xiao Tiandi was a new man in every way possible.

"Xu Shi warned me about you, but seeing it in person is somewhat disheartening," Xiao Tiandi commented while smiling wryly. Wang Wei was one of the main catalysts for his change, so he wanted to shock the latter when they next met. He was even prepared to restart the rivalry of the two physiques as a way to motivate him, but Wang Wei was already in the middle stages of the Empyrean Realm.

"I had a feeling that woman was telling my business everywhere. Good to know my instinct was correct," Wang Wei commented as he sat down opposite Xiao Tiandi.

"Look at you. You're a completely different person," he commented. Xiao Tiandi's current cultivation was 50%, which shows how much he has improved since their last meeting. However, this was not the most promising thing about him, nor was it that he succeeded in achieving a 5-Root Nine Extremity Foundation before proving the Dao. His most impressive achievements were the fact he was a Dao Lord and that he awakened his physique for a second time.

Heavenly Physiques in the upper and lower dimensions differed in their purpose and the fact that some have an awakening process. Lower dimension physiques are created to cultivate powerful Emperors with good Daos, while the top 5 upper dimensions focused on cultivating Paragons, while the lower five focused on cultivating Empyreans.

The first physique, the Innate Grand Dao Source Physique, was one of the few with an awakening process. The first awakening can be achieved after its owner proves the Dao, resulting in an ability

called the Grand Dao Map. The map contains a detailed explanation of all 3800 Primary Daos. If the owner of the physique can achieve the third awakening, the map will provide a detailed explanation all the way to 100% of all 3800 Grand Daos.

Technically speaking, the first physique has a lower understanding than the second, but the map makes up for the gap. It could even be argued that they are better because the map was like having an explanation/outline of all Daos created by Grand Dao. On top of that, the physique owner can allow other people to use the map, which is why many factions always do everything possible to acquire people with that physique.

Sadly, everything is balanced. Awakening the physique is extremely difficult, especially if you wish to do it above your realm, as Xiao Tiandi did. Many people died in the process of awakening these physiques.

"Thanks to you," Xiao Tiandi replied while secretly observing Wang Wei. He had finally confirmed something: this bastard was an anomaly born with a soul quantity already reaching the Paragon Level.

Xiao Tiandi was secretly jealous. The fifth Heavenly Physique was called the Dao Mind Physique, and there was no awakening, and its owner was born with a terrifying Dao Heart and willpower. After a bit of cultivation, they can pass what is arguably the hardest aspect of becoming a Paragon — the Time-Washing Tribulation.

The fourth physique—Grand Fortune Physique—grants its owner white luck; in other words, the owner is born with a Paragon-Level of Luck.

The third one is the Prime Essence Physique, and this one is dedicated to Inextinguishable Paragons. The owner can achieve immortality after absorbing the Heaven Will instead of being limited to one Yuan Epoch of lifespan like other True Power Dao Realm. They only need to survive 3800 Tribulations to achieve [Limit Indestructibility], and their will is already fused with their body, thus skipping this step to open the Gate of Flesh. Of course, they still need to temper their willpower.

Then, there is the second physique, the Innate Paragon Soul. It grants its owner a Paragon Quality Soul and makes it easier to cultivate its quantity. Cultivating a Paragon Soul can be the most time-consuming aspect of entering the Paragon Realm, the most resources required, and arguably the second or third most difficult aspect of the process.

'He had already met the soul and luck requirement, leaving the cultivation realm, the Immeasurable Tribulation, and the Dao Heart requirement to pass the Time-Washing Heart Tribulation,' Xiao Tiandi analyzed. 'From what I know about this bastard, his Dao Heart is solid and only needs some time to temper it. In other words, he only needs to reach 90% of his understanding and pass the tribulation, and he'll be a Paragon. Meanwhile, I...'

Xiao Tiandi did not like the fact he was left behind or the fact Wang Wei was now technically in the same generation as his master due to his cultivation realm. On top of everything else, he wanted to beat this guy up at least once. Yes, Wang Wei helped wake him up from his slumber state, but he did not appreciate the way he went about it. As such, he wanted to show him off before putting everything behind him.

'But what can I do to accelerate my cultivation?' His master was already providing him with the best resources. The other solution was merit, but that's not available in large quantities. He had access to the best Time Acceleration resource, so unless he found a unique treasure like Emperor Kong, he could do nothing.

"Chaos Dao, huh?" Wang Wei asked. "It makes sense." The Innate Dao Source was perfect for cultivating Chaos Dao. It was probably created for that purpose. Additionally, the physique even allowed its owner to only pass the Outlaw Trial, and not the Supreme Trial, to cultivate Chaos Dao.

"So, why did you want to see me?" Wang Wei asked.

Xiao Tiandi did not answer but took out a small mirror and glanced at it.

"I knew it," he uttered before looking at Wang Wei with a fierce gaze. "What's your intention with my master?"

Chapter 1252 Invitation

"Wow! What's with the sudden aggression and hostility?" Wang Wei asked.

"When we first thought, I felt you had some kind of connection with my master. At first, I thought I was thinking too much, but now, I just checked, and your destiny resonated with hers," Xiao Tiandi stated with red eyes.

"She told me about her Fate Nexus and her Fated Love. Are you the bastard fate chose for her?"

"So, what if I were?" Wang Wei asked calmly.

"You're not worthy."

"Oh, do tell me how I'm not worthy of her."

Xiao Tiandi opened his mouth to say something but almost choked on the words as he forcefully stopped himself. Wang Wei was handsome, his strength was very high considering his age, his talent reached the top of the world, and his background was amongst the best in the world. By all categories, he was perfect for Xun Junyao. All these facts made Xiao Tiandi speechless. Luckily for him, Wang Wei was hiding his perfect aura; otherwise, it would be evident that these two were perfect for each other.

"You're married," Xiao Tiandi suddenly said as if he had found a lifeline at the last possible second.

"So?" Wang Wei replied. "It's normal for a man to have three wives and 33 concubines. When it comes to a man of my ability and status, it won't be a problem to have a harem of 3000 beauties."

"Bastard, do you think my master is any ordinary woman?"

"I don't know your master, but if all she has going for her is her status as the most beautiful woman in the world, then that is not enough for her to be the only woman in my life."

Xiao Tiandi immediately released a terrifying killing intent. "Do you want to fight? I'm willing to risk it all."

"Don't embarrass yourself," Wang Wei waved his hand. "Anyway, why do you care so much?" He asked, giving him an odd look.

"Don't look at me like this," Xiao Tiandi grunted. "I just want to make sure whoever she ends up with can give her the entire world; that's the minimum she requires."

"Is that so?" Wang Wei uttered. "I thought you had confused the maternal feelings you had for your master with love because, throughout your life, she was the only good and constant thing you've ever known. Or maybe, after getting your life together, you became bold and wanted to try your hands at a forbidden fruit."

Boom!

A terrifying palm with the power of destruction hit Wang Wei. However, a small shield appeared and easily blocked it; he blocked it so thoroughly that nothing in the pavilion was even scratched.

"Oh, calm down," Wang Wei said as he served himself the tea. "How can you be so easily riled up as a Dao Lord? Even if your master is your weakness, you should do a better job at hiding it." Wang Wei sipped his tea.

"Anyway, it's not like the relationship between master and disciple is considered a true taboo." Besides a few strict factions, usually the ones involving religion, no one cares about this kind of relationship. After living for so long, the morality of cultivators can be described as a thin thread. Even relationships between families are more common than in the mortal world. After all, Tier 10 cultivators could live long enough for their family to have bred for millions of generations. After a certain number of generations, some people just don't care — and that's not mentioning the ones who try to keep their bloodline pure through devious techniques and intermarriage.

Xiao Tiandi exhaled to calm down. "Answer my question," he asked, no, demanded. "What's your intention with my master?"

Wang Wei ignored his rude attitude and said: "I have no 'intention.' I must meet her to break the Fate Nexus, and that's what I will do."

"That's it?"

"Pretty much."

"You're not tempted at all?"

"Like I said, if beauty is all she has, that is not enough for me to care," Wang Wei stated. "And as you said, I have a wife, and she's the only one for me."

Xiao Tiandi looked at him closely. "My intuition tells me you're telling the truth, but my mind cannot believe your words."

"That's because you're biased," Wang Wei replied. "You've put her on a pedestal, so you cannot fathom any men rejecting the opportunity to get with her. However, the world is vast, so although I'm in the minority, I'm sure there are many others."

"That's because you haven't seen her yet," Xiao Tiandi rebutted. He knew his master was the kind of beauty that transcends gender, race, or species.

"You don't know me," Wang Wei said. "I despise fate, so I would never willingly let it decide things for me — except for my wife. She was, and will always be, the only exception. So, it does not matter how wonderful your master is. Just because she was chosen for me made it impossible for us ever to be together."

"That's an odd way of life," Xiao Tiandi commented. If he accepted it once, why not do it a second time? However, he could understand this kind of determination and spirit of defiance.

"I believe you," Xiao Tiandi stated before summoning a golden invitation and handing it to Wang Wei. "The celebration will take place in the Ubiquitous Hotspring Domain. That's where everyone will gather before our palace descends, and the guests can enter."

Wang Wei recollected his knowledge of the area. It's a strange place where hot springs will manifest suddenly, many in different dimensions. The hot springs are relaxing, but more importantly, many have special effects, including helping cultivate the soul and body and granting special abilities/talents.

"I'll be there in time," Wang Wei nodded as he put the invitation away. "By the way, how is your time in the rebellion?"

"It's alright. It gave me a sense of purpose, and I couldn't ask for anything more."

"Your presence didn't affect your master?"

"Not that I can tell," Xiao Tiandi replied. "Anyway, it was her who encouraged me to do it, stating she would deal with the trouble that came with it."

"That's good to hear," Wang Wei nodded. "What do you think of them?"

"Them?" Xiao Tiandi took a moment to organize his thoughts. "Their leader, Empyrean Jimin, is a talented individual. However, he made a grave error when organizing the rebellion. He did not centralize power and recruited too many people, creating a situation where so many factions vie for power."

Xiao Tiandi squinted. "I reckon it was not a mistake, but he did it purposefully."

"Oh?"

"After analyzing everything he's done so far, I deduce that his ultimate goal is not the rebellion or the end of this era, but to use the rebellion's name to build his own faction," Xiao Tiandi stated.

"He's that ambitious?"

"More than you think. If my analysis is correct, his disappearance is because he's trying to enter the Paragon Realm."

"If he succeeds, it will be easier for him to control all the resistance, especially since he already has the majority of control," Wang Wei commented.

"That should have been his long-term goal from the start," Xiao Tiandi agreed. Wang Wei tapped on the tea table as he pondered; his mind was on the verge of catching something.

'In the current situation, where would I hide to break through?' he asked himself, and the answer was simple. There were three possible situations. The first is the Source Qi Space, but the volatile nature of that setting means it could affect the Immeasurable Tribulation, thus raising the difficulty exponentially.

The second option was the forbidden place of the Eternal Ascension World, but after the two suns took over, these places ceased to exist or disappeared from the face of the earth. That left the last and best solution — the Lawless Zone.

Its power will not affect the breakthrough since the tribulation originated from True Heavenly Dao. Additionally, if someone else tries to interfere, their strength would be limited to the Empyrean Realm, making it an ideal place in case the parasites tried to interfere.

'So, Empyrean Jimin is hiding in the Lawless Zone? But why haven't I found him? Come to think of it, I also haven't found the Crazy Thief Gang Lord. Could they be related? Could they be the same person?'

Wang Wei's body suddenly paused as this thought flashed in his mind. At first, he thought he was reaching, but something told him to take a moment and pursue this line of thought for a moment.

'When I first met him, I thought his name was associated with nimbleness, which could indicate his Dao was related to assassination,' Wang Wei analyzed. 'And the information I've gathered so far proves that to be the case.' No one knew exactly what the leader's Dao was, but everyone knew he was a master assassin who rarely failed.

'However, it could also apply to a Dao related to thievery. It's also suspicious how they both retreated around the same time, especially when my information indicated that the Gang Lord's cultivation was near the peak of Tier 11.'

Wang Wei realized his deduction was a stretch, but his guts told him he was onto something. Empyrean Jimin was either the same person as the Crazy Thief Gang Lord, or they were connected somehow. Regardless, he was prepared to investigate.

Chapter 1253 Re-Life Iron

Wang Wei stopped thinking and sipped his tea.

"Done?" Xiao Tiandi asked.

"Sorry about that."

"I understand," Xiao Tiandi nodded. He knew it was best to let his thoughts flow naturally when he got these sudden inspirations.

"So, what have you been up to?"

"You know, preparing for the future," Wang Wei replied vaguely.

"Is the Dao Opening Sect prepared to give you full support to fulfill your destiny?"

"Why do you want to know?" Wang Wei asked him.

"So, I was right. You're trying to keep them out of it," Xiao Tiandi said with a smirk.

"You know, I preferred you when you were silent and depressed."

"That's a low blow."

"I can go lower if you continue to test me," Wang Wei said, looking him calmly in the eyes.

Xiao Tiandi sighed before standing up. "Well, this was fun. Let's do it again another time." His body turned into a field of flowers as he flew into the sky, and his voice echoed:

"I once walked a lonely path, but now, it is illuminated by a flower that symbolizes beauty and wrath — a flower that I will go to any length to protect its laugh, including living my life in bloodbath."

Wang Wei's lips twitched. "What is this? Could it be that Xun Junyao is so beautiful that it made this bastard turn into a poet?" He shook his head before flying away. He did not leave but looked around this place, thinking of sending his guard to this place to gather information.

Wang Wei flew to the place in this territory with the most condensed destiny and also where most of the chaos occurs. Snow-Sky City is where most events would happen, so it was the best place to create a branch. He might even extend the missions of his Changing Fate Hall to this location.

This city was enormous, as are most things in the upper dimension. However, this was not the most unique part of this place. As soon as Wang Wei arrived, he caught people's attention for one reason: he wore ordinary clothes while almost everyone else had a fur coat on.

Snow-Sky City was built long ago on top of Celestial Ice Crystal Mine, causing the temperature to be extremely low. Celestial Ice Crystal is a top Tier 11 material, and if enough is concentrated on an area, even an Empyrea— a conceptual being — can freeze to death.

In Snow-Sky City, not wearing a specially-made coat meant your clothes were top-tier artifacts that could resist the temperature, or you were powerful enough to ignore the cold. Wang Wei blended with a small group and changed his clothes to resemble everyone else.

As he walked around the city and observed, he recalled what he knew about it. Snow-Sky City used to be the property of the Skill Dao Association; they used the Celestial Ice Crystal to make weapons, talismans, pills, etc. However, this place became the property of Undead Phoenix and Five Feathers, but the dispute might have originated from how to share the resources. Or the dispute might have been over something else, but it resulted in their fight spilling over the mine distribution of Celestial Ice Crystal.

'So many resources, but most of them are wasted,' Wang Wei sighed. The parasites killed most of the professional Dao Paragons, meaning that they could not refine resources on that level. Wang Wei guessed that Maitreya and Supreme Unity might have allowed them to keep a few, but that is unlikely since the creation of some Paragon Pill, depending on the type, could cause severe vision and affect the entire world, which is what they wanted to prevent.

Additionally, these parasites, maybe except Time Eater, were not brave enough to keep another Paragon close to their side. As such, the best they could do was keep a rare Insurgent Dao Monarch that could refine Paragon Grade — or close to that — artifacts, pills, talismans, etc.

As Wang Wei was walking around the city, he heard something that caught his interest.

"Are you serious?" said a female Dao Ruler.

"Yes. I just heard the news. The Purple Lotus Actiol Hall released the news that the next auction will contain Relife Iron," said her companion, an Immortal Sovereign.

"Shh, don't say so loud," warned the woman. "But they are so bold to announce selling such a thing?"

"It's probably because it's only second tier, but there is a rumor going around that they have third-tier Re-Life Iron, but it will only be sold in a secret auction."

"Rumors are rumors, after all."

"So, you don't think it's true?"

"So what if it is?" the woman asked. "Do you think this is the kind of stuff we can interfere with?"

"I know. I'm mentioning it to convince you to attend the auction. There might be some good stuff there."

"I smell trouble, so we should stay far away," the woman replied.

"You play it too safe," her partner countered. "That's fine and all, but if that is how we were going to operate, what was the point of coming to such a dangerous place?"

"There is a fine line between benefiting from danger and being swallowed by it. I feel this is one of the cases where we might get swallowed, so listen to me and stay away from that auction."

"Alright, alright, I'll listen to you," the man sighed.

'Re-life Iron?' Wang Wei thought with squinted eyes. This is another rare resource with many uses, the most important being the nemesis of longevity resources. Initially, this thing was used by people without access to a Dao Will to kill Emperors and above. They would seal the body in prisons built from Re-Life Iron, preventing the Emperor from reviving; the prison also made it easier to wash away the dead body's Dao Imprint.

Later, Re-Life Iron was further developed into the Re-Life Talisman, which can force someone with an extra life to revive directly in front of anyone who killed them. In other words, people would use the talisman to force people with extra lives to revive before them to kill them again, ensuring they are truly dead.

'The parasites outlawed Re-life Iron. Although they only reinforce the rules when the third-tier ones are discovered, their subordinate does reinforce the rest of this rule,' Wang Wei thought. 'So, why are those people so blatantly selling it?'

He was intrigued, so he participated in this banquet. He had to wait six months but decided to take a small vacation. Wang Wei bought a VIP lounge for the auction, but he also complained the price was too much. The receptionist explained that the price was due to the nature of what was being sold; however, he still felt it was needlessly pricey.

On the day of the auction, he waited and observed. The announcer/hostess was a beautiful woman with a goth vibe. She wore dark purple lipstick, long black nails, and a revealing winter fox coat. Why would a coat be revealing? No one knows, but that's how she was dressed, and the audience seemed to love it.

The first item was surprisingly Grade 7, meaning it was for people of Void Shattering Realm. Then, it slowly increased until Grade 10, when Wang Wei finally bought something. He fetched 3 of the 5 Heaven Wills they were selling. He did not fight for the remaining two because the people who wanted it seemed desperate, so despite the fact he could outbid them, he let it go — considering granting these two some blessing.

After his bid, someone brought him his things, and he paid; the process was simple and direct. As he held the Heaven Will, Wang Wei could not help but sigh. These things are fought after in the lower dimension, with everyone lusting and willing to do everything for one of them. However, in the upper dimension, it is a commodity — albeit rare, but still a commodity.

Wang Wei did not buy anything more, as even the things in the tier 11 section did not interest him. Then, it was the last object of the auction. The hostess waited a few seconds for someone to bring it out, but no one cared.

"Apologies, everyone, it seems there might be some issue. Give me a moment to resolve everything," the hostess announced as she bowed. "To compensate for this blunder, everyone here will receive a 5% discount in all future auctions."

The crowd erupted in murmur, and the auctioneer walked behind the curtain, returning about three minutes later with the item floating behind her.

"Now, let's move on," she said, removing the red cover, showing black rock with white stripes running in a circular pattern. Countless divine senses checked this thing to ensure it was the real deal, and the auction allowed it since this was an unwritten rule of the auction business.

"You all know this thing's value so I won't repeat it," the auctioneer said. "For the starting bid..." she paused for dramatic purposes and to build suspense. "Your life." She said in a severe tone, her eyes full of disdain and killing intent

'As expected,' Wang Wei thought. A barrier suddenly surrounded the auction, and two armies wearing phoenix-designed armor rushed into the place and immediately attacked everyone present.

Chapter 1254 The Mortalhood Trial

The chaos erupted. Lights, weapons, and transformations flashed everywhere in the auction. However, it was evident that the army had the advantage as they captured most of the participants instead of killing them. Meanwhile, Wang Wei was the only one calm and still sitting down.

Someone busted into his room and looked around, including past him, but saw nothing. Then, the person left in confusion. As soon as the trouble started, he used his Time Dao to enter, or maybe create, a parallel space-time similar to the mirror dimension so he could see and interact with everyone else, but they couldn't do the same to him.

'Well, I might as well get something out of this,' he thought. Wang Wei did not leave but went directly to the auction's treasury. These people were confident in themselves, probably thinking that no one would be brave enough to steal from them, so their protective measures were mediocre, to say the least.

Wang Wei stole everything, including a small amount of Re-Life Iron, probably enough to make one or two talismans. The problem now is where to find someone to make it for him. He doubted the Flame Blacksmith could refine talisman since his expertise lay in weapons.

As Wang Wei was about to leave this facade, he sensed a powerful person in one of the rooms, which he learned was where the auction's manager lived. So, he decided to take a look. He passed through the door and saw two people staring at each other.

To be precise, a beautiful woman with a phoenix headdress and red hanfu glared at a man looking at the floor while trying to make himself as small as possible. The mighty person he sensed was the phoenix woman, as her cultivation was the peak of the Empyrean Realm, and she was close to opening the Gate of Power.

"Well?" she asked.

"I really didn't know it was a fake."

"You keep saying that, but do you think this is good enough?"

"Lady White Phoenix, even you were almost fooled by this fake. What can someone as lowly as me do in such a situation?"

White Phoenix looked at this fake third-tier Re-life Iron on her left hand. It was indeed an excellent fake, and if not for her unique ocular prowess, the Heavenly Phoenix Eye, she would have missed it.

"Your excuse is good, but it's not enough," White Phoenix declared. "This operation was supposed to lure these ridiculous rebels and maybe even some excellent fishes, but you ruin it." According to the plan, they wanted to use the excuse that the price the iron sold was not to their liking, so they would delay this auction by another month — all in the hope of the news traveling far and luring some important individual. Sadly, this plan failed once they realized someone had stolen the real thing, leaving a fake.

"You should have listened to my advice, postponed the operation, and bought a new iron," the manager complained. He suddenly felt a surge of strength and looked her in the eyes.

"Do you think it was easy to put this operation together?" Lady White Phoenix snapped. She knew how much effort she put into convincing these people to lend her this iron without someone labeling her a traitor. Forget about continuing the operation, and she will be in major trouble after returning home; she might even be executed.

The manager's body trembled, and he quickly lowered his head. White Phoenix looked at him fiercely, contemplating whether to kill this imbecile directly.

'No, the action and this imbecile works for Sister Red Phoenix, so I can also put some of the blame on her and reduce my fault in all of this.' White Phoenix's mood suddenly improved, but she showed no emotions. Meanwhile, Wang Wei was surprised by this news.

'Who could be responsible for this theft? The resistance? No, my guard should have sent notes of such vital information,' Wang Wei thought. 'Is there an excellent thief in this area? Another event related to thievery.'

He shook his head before focusing on this woman. 'White Phoenix, one of the primary subordinates under the Five Feather Phoenix. What should I do with her? Kill her now? Or turn her into a pawn to use later?' He considered briefly before deciding to make better use of her. So, he blew an invisible gray mist into her body.

White Phoenix suddenly reacted and turned to look in his direction. She frowned as she saw nothing, so her eyes turned into phoenixes before she looked at every corner of the room.

'Am I too sensitive?' she pondered. She checked a second time with the same result. 'It seems I am.' She turned around and started using her divine sense to check the situation.

'Another talent wasted,' Wang Wei thought as he looked at her with pity. The fact that White Phoenix detected his actions proved she was talented, especially in the detection category. Sadly, she can never fulfill her potential because of who she serves. There is also the fact he might have to kill such a talent.

Wang Wei left the room, but he did not leave the auction. Of course, he had his reason. He feared breaking through their formation might warn White Phoenix of someone capable of breaking their array. And if someone can do that, that person can also spy on her. Wang Wei did not want to alert her in any way possible, so he waited until the operation ended and the auction lifted their formation before he left.

He returned to the Dao Burial Ground and immediately started researching any connection between Empyrean Jimin and the Crazy Thief Gang Lord. He also asked Red Mask Fate to send the next batch of trained guards to the Red Plateau Land, even tasking her to look for a talented individual with the Dao of Theft.

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Heavenly Beauty Palace:

Xun Junyao, with a veil covering most of her face, sat on a cushion with a large scroll in her hand. The scroll's content kept changing as she read, and she mulled over every word. Once in a while,

after reading the content, Xun Junyao would wave in the air to send information talismans to different places throughout the palace.

She had one of the best intelligence agencies in the world, and she built it simply because of her beauty. Many men and women in the world are willing to tell her any secrets just for the chance to get close to her. And this closeness doesn't have to be something excessive. Most of them are happy as long as she writes a letter to them, or some tell her their deepest secrets as long as she acknowledges their presence.

'Everything is prepared perfectly,' Xun Junyao pondered, and with a thought, the scroll disappeared. At the same time, a spatial wave spread into the room, and Xiao Tiandi appeared in the room.

"You're back," Xun Junyao said. "How did it go?"

"It was fine."

"So, who was this friend you went to see?"

"It was the asshole from the lower dimension I talked about."

"Oh? What did you talk about?"

"He wanted an invitation to your celebration?"

"So, your friend is also intrigued by my beauty?" Xun Junyao asked with a playful voice.

"Something like that."

"Is something wrong?" Xun Junyao asked.

"Master, is there a way for me to become an Empyrean in like a few Yuan Epochs?"

'What's gotten into him?' Xun Junyao thought. "How few are we talking about?"

"Let's say, less than 1000 — no — less than 500 Yuan Epochs."

"Are you crazy?"

"I'm serious!" Xiao Tiandi has been thinking about this on his way here, and he could not think of a solution other than gathering merit. He could try to awaken his physique a third time, which would boost his cultivation speed, but the chances of succeeding were astronomical low. From the records, only one person in the Eternal Ascension World achieved a third physique awakening while an Emperor, but the records stated clearly this person was extremely lucky to have survived.

Xun Junyao looked at him intently: "What did your friend say to make you act like this?"

"That's not important right now," Xiao Tiandi replied. "So, do you know of a way?"

"Hmm, I can only think of the Mortalhood Trial, but that might as well be a myth," Xun Junyao replied.

"What is it?"

"It's a trial for immortals in which they sacrifice their eternal life for an exponential boost in cultivation speed. The participant will have a limited lifespan based on their cultivation realm, and if they cannot get through to the next stage before time runs out, they die permanently.'Just like True Power Realm body refiners,' Xiao Tiandi thought. "And it's true death?"

"That's correct," Xun Junyao said. Being an Eternal or other cannot save someone who enters that trial.

"How do I get into that trial?"

"As I said, it might as well be a myth," Xun Junyao replied. "The trial is not something that originated from our world, but from Primordial Chaos. No one knows, or, I should say, I don't know the criteria for it to appear in any world. The last time it appeared in our world was before the Golden Era."

Chapter 1255 The Frontier's Situation

Xiao Tiandi frowned, thinking about this trial.

"Don't worry too much about it," Xun Junyao said. "You're a person with a great destiny. Who knows? It might appear now that you have such an intense desire for it."

She did not want her disciple to revert to his former self because of this small inconvenience, so Xun Junyao chose to give false hope. Technically speaking, it was not false hope since she did not know the exact requirements for the trial. For all she knew, it appeared when someone of great destiny required it or during a time of chaos and strife—just like the current era.

"Destiny?" Xiao Tiandi muttered as an idea flashed in his mind. "Could we summon it?"

"That's an idea, but how would we go about that?"

"You remember your history lesson of the Second Origin War?" Xiao Tiandi stated. "You said that Paragon Qiyuan started a war to gather a tremendous amount of luck and destiny to summon the Ultimate Taboo. Couldn't we use his method to summon this trial?"

"That might work," Xun Junyao nodded. "However, the destiny..."

"I know mine alone is not enough, but we can contact Empyrean Kong and many other talented individuals," Xiao Tiandi persuaded. "I'm sure many of the people in the same generation as ... Well, my point is that many people would not pass off such an opportunity in this current climate."

Xun Junyao noticed how odd he behaved regarding this so-called friend, but she did not pry. They were very close; if her disciple did not tell him, he must have his reasons.

"That's one part of the problem," Xun Junyao sighed. "How would we get such an important thing from the Dao Opening Sect? I can ask them, but I doubt they will give me face regarding this matter."

"We don't need the complete method. No, we don't even need to be the ones to summon the trial," Xiao Tiandi persuaded. "I'm sure the Dao Opening Sect would benefit from such an event. In other words, we only need to persuade them."

Xiao Tiandi was confident in this plan because the Dao Opening Sect had a high chance of agreeing because of Wang Wei. Although he would prefer for that bastard not to enjoy such benefit, he knew it was impossible not to include. Regardless, the trial should somewhat reduce the gap between them — especially since he can achieve a third awakening after becoming an Empyrean.

"It seems you've thought of everything," Xun Junyao said with a smile. Luckily, she hid her face, or the entire room would be illuminated. However, despite this protection, Xiao Tiandi already thought of a hundred poems describing the fleeting smile.

"Excellent. I'll contact them immediately," Xun Junyao said. Such a trial could also benefit her. "No, inviting them to my celebration and asking in person would be better. If so, I can't send just anyone to give the invitation."

"I'll go."

"Yes, you're my direct disciple, and what better person to represent me," Xun Junyao nodded. "Go right now. No, change into something more presentable. You should also bring gifts."

"No problem," Xiao Tiandi stated. "By the way, is the trial also useful for Paragons?"

"No. You must leave after becoming a Paragon."

"That's good to hear," Xiao Tiandi sighed. If those people could also use the trial, the current situation would worsen to a terrifying level. He walked out of the room, heading to his quarters to change.

"Wait," Xun Junyao yelled. "What about the thing I ask you to fetch?"

"Oh, I almost forgot," Xiao Tiandi replied. He did not turn around but threw a space ring over his head, which landed perfectly on Xun Junyao's hands.

"Rude," she complained. "Nothing went wrong?"

"Nope, everything was fine."

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Eternal Ascension World, Primordial Chaos:

A blood-red dragon fought a cultivator with a flying sword. The dragon had countless blood marks on its body; his scales were destroyed or slashed in different parts of his body. From their auras, the swordsman was obviously more powerful than the dragon. However, the supposed divine creature had its power boosted by a potent array.

The swordsman tried to remove the array, which was the source of his opponent's strength. However, he had to give up this foolish thought as he realized he would have to destroy the Eternal Ascension World to remove the array. Sadly, he did not have such power, so he could grit his teeth and curse whoever created such a brilliant formation.

The swordsman suddenly sensed people rushing toward him. He knew this raid had failed, and if he stayed here, he would probably be exiled to some dangerous area of the Source Qi Space or lost in time through the River of Time.

He took one last look at the dragon before flying away. This was far from over. The Chaos Universe was about to experience another turmoil similar to the [Second War Origin], and the Eternal Ascension World might be the key to knowing what will happen. Better yet, they might be the key to ensuring maximum benefit.

The top powers have yet to show up, only observing in the shadows and using people like this swordsman as pawns. However, sooner or later, they will be tired of observing and taking action.

The dragon waited until he could not sense anything before turning into a tall, muscular man about 2.8 meters in height, with two red dragon horns and a loose robe showing his upper body.

'When will this end,' Blood Dragon complained. As he was about to turn around, he suddenly felt a terrifying pain in his chest. 'Why now of all time?' he thought. However, despite the intense pain, his complexion did not change.

'Blood Dragon, what are you doing? Are you injured?' asked a beautiful voice.

'I'm fine.'

'Is that so? Well, we're having a meeting.'

'I'll be right there,' Blood Dragon. He secretly teleported a few pills from his pocket dimension directly into his stomach, and a few seconds later, he could move. He flew into a pavilion floating right outside the Eternal Ascension World, which resembled a colossal egg from the point of view of Primordial Chaos.

Everyone was at the meeting, sitting on thrones around a circular table. Well, everyone except for the Disaster Paragon and the Twin Flower Monk.

"This can't go on like this," Time Eater immediately stated after everyone arrived and took a seat at their position. "Someone must be chosen to return home and cultivate a few Paragons to aid us."

"We've had this conversation countless times, so why waste time?" Five-Feather asked. "Everyone wants to be the one to return, so how do we decide?"

"I'm putting my foot down this time," Time Eater announced. "I'll be the one to return, and I won't take no for an answer." He released his aura, suppressing all the others in the room.

"Watch your tongue," warned Seven Cauldron. "If anyone here should return, it's rightfully me."

"Unfortunately for you, I no longer care about your special identity," Time Eater replied, even releasing a slight killing intent.

"You!"

"Do it, and I'll burn everything down," Undead Phoenix said. "I'll either open the formation and allow these people entry or run away and sell all your information."

"You wouldn't dare," Time Eater growled.

"Try me," Undead Phoenix replied before looking at Five Feather. "I might even find someone willing to kill this bitch for me."

"Bold words," Five Feather replied, releasing her own killing intent.

"Can we even return?" the Earth Emperor asked calmly. "Their orders were to protect the world at all costs. Would they consider our return an act of treason?"

The room was momentarily quiet until Time Eater spoke. "We're only doing so to better accomplish our given task."

"Will they care?" the Earth Emperor rebutted; his words again plunged the room into silence.

"Let's not talk about such pointless speculation," Earth Emperor continued. "How about we summon people here instead of fetching them? They can become a Paragon here, and the problem will be solved."

"As long as we each get to pick someone, I'm fine with this idea," Five Feather added, and soon, everyone agreed.

"You make it sound simple, but have you considered the implications?" Time Eater sneered at these idiots. "We can hide these people for the most part, but what about when they have to undergo the Immemorial Tribulation?" He pointed outside.

"Do you think these people are stupid? They won't guess what we're trying to do and stop us."

"You're right, but this is the best compromise we can come up with," the Earth Emperor replied. "We can deal with these people's reactions when the time comes. At worst, we will send our people to the Source Qi Space to pass the tribulation."

Time Eater looked at the Earth Emperor in the eyes, and the latter did not flinch. Shu Ren did not know why Time Eater desperately wanted to return home but knew he needed to stop it at all costs.

"Fine. Let's discuss how many people to summon and how to choose." This discussion did not last long as everybody agreed on one person, and it had to be someone they trusted or could easily

control. Once the decision was made, everyone scattered to their rooms for the summon. Meanwhile, the quiet Blood Dragon had a glint in his eyes as he calmly returned to his quarters.

Chapter 1256 Special Guest

Blood Dragon walked inside his quarter, and another dragon waited for him. The dragon was much older and looked human, with two black dragon horns. However, he also dressed more formally.

"Lord."

"Ao Ying, what is the result?" Blood Dragon asked as he sat around a small table with a gourd. He opened it and chugged the entire content.

"According to my investigation, you're the only one Lady Xun Junyao invited to her celebration," Ao Ying reported.

"And you're sure?"

"I've done my best, and as far as our intelligence goes, none of the other factions seems to have a personal invitation from her.

"Good, good, good," Blood Dragon repeated three times, his voice echoing in the room. Luckily, there was a sound-insulating array. "I haven't heard such good news in a while."

"Lord, how will you attend the celebration without being noticed?"

Blood Dragon looked at him. "I guess you should be a part of this plan in case something goes wrong. Come with me." He waved his hand to summon a portal before walking in. On the opposite side was a blood pool with a blood cocoon at the center.

"This clone, which has inherited more than 99% of my strength, will take my place in this hell hole."

"Sir, did you use your Blood Clone Ability? But you know doing so will aggravate —"

"It's fine," Blood Dragon stopped him, and Ao Ying sighed.

"Well, that's one part of the problem," the elderly dragon continued. "What about the other part? How are you going to return home without them noticing?"

"I'll be using this," Blood Dragon replied before showing him a yellow paper with a character drawn at the center. Interestingly, the character is a dragon, and it seems to be alive upon closer observation.

"The Ancestral Dragon Talisman," Ao Ying said in shock.

"That's right," Blood Dragon replied with a smile. Ancestral Dragon is a title granted to Primal Paragon dragons, and this particular talisman was one of the dragon race's treasures from even before the Golden Era.

"But, but, but..." Ao Ying was speechless. This talisman is a treasure considered as a foundation for the dragon race. It is one of the few treasures that Blood Dragon took after his rebellion, while the others were hidden from him. But even after taking this talisman, he could not use it normally and had to sacrifice trillions of lives for an opportunity to activate it once.

"Lord, this talisman was your way out once this era ends," Ao Ying swiftly said. "Why are you wasting it?"

"What do you mean by waste?" Blood Dragon asked, his bright smile replaced by slight gloom. "Don't you understand what it means for her only to invite me? It means that out of that gloomy bastard Undead, the boring and prideful Shu Ren, and the scheming Time Eater, she chose the fearless and valiant me.

"How can a mere talisman be compared to her? In fact, I might tell just to show her how much I appreciate her."

Ao Ying wanted to tell him that no woman — no matter how beautiful — was worth the value of that talisman. However, he's been with the young master since he was a baby and knows his temper. He would only get a scolding and might even lose some trust in the process.

'I knew I should have assassinated her when he first showed interest,' Ao Ying thought. Sadly, it was now too late. Ao Ying sighed in his resignation. He suddenly felt he had aged mentally by an exponential amount.

"Do as you wish," he said. "But young master, don't forget you promised me you would not die before me." After saying these words, Ao Ying walked out of this dimension; his shoulders lowered than they had ever been.

Blood Dragon shook his head. Ao Ying was a trusted subordinate who had been with him since birth. However, he had a significant flaw — he was too reserved. Cautions took precedence over everything he did, usually to the detriment of whatever Blood Dragon wished to accomplish.

Blood Dragon looked at the cocoon and the talisman, and he smiled. He returned to his quarters in the best mood since a few thousand Yuan Epochs.

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Dao Burial Ground:

Wang Wei looked over a lot of documents and information, trying to connect Empyrean Jimin with the Crazy Thief Gang Lord. However, the result was abysmal. By all accounts, they were two people with different stories, lives, interests, hobbies, and personalities. As far as he could tell, they've never interacted, and there is no connection between them.

Ultimately, Wang Wei had to admit this might have been a wild goose chase and gave up. Luckily for him, Wang Qi brought him some good news that diverted his mind from this small failure. The rebellion accepted his proposition and handed over Zhen Biyu's contract. However, they also asked that Wang Wei share the information gathered from her, and he agreed. Of course, he did not try these people and could choose what information to give them.

Red Mask Fate then brought him even more good news. They've identified two other individuals, besides Fierce Tier, who knew of Zhen Biyu's situation, one of whom was Old Ma. She wanted to know what to do with them or the others, if there were any. Wang Wei told her to kill everyone else except for Old Ma. He still wanted to preserve his relationship with Empyrean Jimin if possible.

After dealing with these affairs, Wang Wei entered seclusion. He had some time before the celebration and decided to improve himself. However, the time until the celebration was short, so he needed to choose what to focus on.

'My main priority should be to condense a true 11th revolution bloodline by turning its capabilities from active to passive, and it should help to lay the foundation for entering the Taboo Realm. Then, if I have time, I can improve all my techniques so that I don't suffer with much older opponents, and if I have time,' Wang Wei thought.

After outlining a basic plan, he immediately started. Wang Wei fired out his Time Acceleration Array — which was created with his Time Dao and Flame Blacksmith's shallow knowledge about Array — to the limit before using Mongke's Supreme Chaos Treasure — the Battle Arena — to help him improve on his version of the [Fiendgod Body 12 Revolutions].

The creation, or improvement, of this technique was the easy part. What came next was the true challenge — the bloodline tribulation. Wang Wei's [Limit Indestructibility] should have made this process a piece of cake, but Heavenly Dao had something else planned. His tribulation was essentially a slightly weaker version of the Paragon Tribulation, meaning Wang Wei came close to death. It did not help that Heavenly Dao, no, Grand Dao, prevented him from using his 10-fold Battle Realm for the tribulation, meaning Wang Wei had to rely on his 78% cultivation and his flesh on the Third Heaven of the Adult Fiendgod Realm.

'Phew, that was something,' Wang Wei exhaled. 'Let's test this out.' He summoned the physical manifestation of [Nothingness], which materialized as a large empty scroll floating above his head.

'It's working,' Wang Wei thought. He could feel his body passively absorbing this power, and if he closed his eyes, he could confront nothingness itself to temper his willpower. He closed his eyes to check on his [Nothingness Wheel]. The thing had grown from the size of an egg to the size of a tennis ball. However, despite this tiny improvement, Wang Wei smiled.

He could tell the wheel was passively absorbing power from his bloodline, which was enough to put a smile on his face. The day when this thing is big enough, he will break his limits and achieve battle strength on par with the top of this world. Hopefully, this day will not be far away.

Wang Wei focused on the other changes of his breakthrough. 'I'm still in the Third Heaven, but I've entered the [Initial Stage] of Body-Will Fusion.'

Body-Will Fusion had four stages: initial, middle, advanced, and perfection. Wang Wei had just started. Meanwhile, Mongke was almost finished.

'The last part is the Wang Clan Bloodline,' Wang Wei thought. The next step should be to allow his clan members to benefit from the fruit of his labors. However, he decided against it.

'Any sudden change in the bloodline is easy to notice in the current situation,' Wang Wei analyzed. 'Plus, it may be better to wait until someone finishes the 10th revolution and becomes an Indestructible Emptyrean before getting access to the benefits of the 11th Revolution. 'I should encourage them to make their version of the 11th revolution.'

Wang Wei left the Source Qi Space to return to the Dao Burial Ground to continue his retreat. Mongke's artifact worked better than anticipated, so he had plenty of time to improve his techniques.

Time passed, and it was finally time for Xun Junyao's celebration.

Chapter 1257 Odd Meeting

Wang Wei walked out of the cultivation room, and Wang Qi came to see him. However, Wang Wei could tell this was just a clone, and he knew the fact that the real one had entered seclusion.

"Why do you seem stressed out?" Wang Wei asked.

"I haven't figured out what gift to bring to the celebration," Wang Qi said.

"That's what's gotten so you riled up?"

"You should take this seriously. On such a grand occasion, we must bring the appropriate gift, or we will lose a lot of face."

"It's not like I'm going as my real identity, so it doesn't matter as much as you think."

"But, aren't you going to meet Lady Xun Junyao in person? Since it's your first meeting, you should bring a worthy gift."

"It's fine since I already prepared the perfect gift."

"Please don't say something as stupid that your presence is the best gift," Wang Qi warned, making Wang Wei speechless.

"I was going to say that as a joke, but now, you've ruined it."

"Patriarch, this is a serious matter."

"I know," Wang Wei waved his hand.

"So, what gift did you prepare?"

"You're persistent, aren't you?"

"It's one of my best qualities."

Wang Wei sighed and told him the gift he had prepared; he even summoned it to show him.

"It's indeed perfect for her," Wang Qi said, and Wang Wei rolled his eyes. "However, wouldn't it be better to refine it into something else? Maybe a hairpin, bracelet, or a mirror. Oh, I forgot she hates mirrors."

"She does?"

"It's a known fact," Wang Qi explained before handing Wang Wei all the information he had gathered about Xun Junyao, and it indeed stated that she would return any mirror she received as gifts and even publicly admitting to not liking them.

"The most beautiful woman in the world doesn't like to look in the mirror?" Wang Wei muttered.

"I had the same reaction after finding out," Wang Qi added. "Do you think she doesn't like what she sees?"

"Or she's afraid of falling in love with herself," Wang Wei joked as he thought about the Greek myth about the man named Narcissus.

"Is that possible?" "Stranger things have happened."

"True," Wang Qi nodded before changing the topic. "Did you prepare a gift for the first meeting with the madam?"

"That's not necessary."

"But—"

"I don't want to complicate our first meeting," Wang Wei stopped him. "So, there is no need for any gifts or grand gestures. We only need to talk."

"Maybe you have a point." Wang Qi did not bring up this topic again.

"Did anything special happen during my absence?"

"No, everything was calm. Everyone seems to be waiting for the celebration."

"Including them?"

"Yes, including them."

"I expect the men's faction to behave in such a way, but I thought someone like Five Feather would be jealous of Xun Junyao's beauty and make trouble," Wang Wei commented.

"That might still happen at the celebration," Wang Qi added. "However, knowing that her actions might turn everyone against her, she might restrain herself."

"I hope she doesn't, as that would make things more interesting," Wang Wei sneered. "Where is Red Mask?"

"I'm here." She appeared in the room, kneeling on one knee.

"Anything to report?"

"I've assassinated Fierce Tiger and anyone who knew about Zhen Biyu except the one called Old Ma," she reported.

"Good work," Wang Wei praised. He did not ask how she did it, as long as she did. "What is the reaction?"

"I've made it look like a retaliation for one of their previous missions against the Great Chu Dynasty," Red Mask responded. "And since then, they've become more cautious."

"Did they enact a new leader?"

"No, they are still fighting to decide."

"I guess I shouldn't have expected anything else."

Wang Wei shook his head in disappointment. His current plan for the rebellion is to replace their members with his fate shadow guard and take control from the inside. Then, when Emphyrean Jimin returns, he will decide their ultimate fate based on how he returns.

"If he succeeds in becoming a Paragon, Wang Wei will remove most of his people, leaving the minimum number to gather information. Then, he will continue a cooperative relationship with them. If he returns as an Emphyrean, then Wang Wei will take over their operation and force Emphyrean Jimin to serve under him.

The best course would probably be for him to die, but Wang Wei also felt it was a waste for such a talent to die so suddenly.

Wang Wei checked on his team and the Changing Fate Hall. He became a handsome young man wearing a black inner shirt, a floating white robe, and a handheld fan that added a scholarly aura to his demeanor. Anyone who saw him would think he was the kind of person who could recite poems on the spot.

'Given how Xiao Tiandi turned out, she should find this appearance approachable,' Wang Wei thought. He then finally teleported to the Ubiquitous Hotspring World. As soon as he arrived at his designation, he noticed two things. Firstly, there were so many people. This place used to be a popular entertainment spot, so it was normal for it to be lively. However, it was on a different scale now that so many people worldwide arrived for the celebration.

The second thing he noticed was the abnormal amount of destiny condensed in this place. His eyes could see an invisible dragon swimming above the sky on a golden lake. 'Something is definitely going to happen in this celebration,' Wang Wei analyzed. 'And it will be major.' He tried divining the truth but only discovered something easy to guess: Xun Junyao would be at the center of everything.

'Since faith fails, let's try to look into the future,' Wang Wei thought. His eyes then reflected the River of Time as he tried to peep at the mystery of tomorrow.

"It's useless even if you use Time Dao," said a soft-spoken voice. "The celebration is a critical node in history, a time nexus, if you will, so the future is not set — well, at least for us who have not escaped the shackles of time.

This voice was correct. In Wang Wei's eyes, the future was an entangled ball of threads, each representing a different possibility. There were so many of them that even his mind could only peep at a fraction. On top of everything, the lines he could see were blurred.

He turned around to see who had spoken. It was an elderly man with white hair and a white goatee dressed in a plain black robe. However, the man had a charm of mystery about him, which was accentuated by the fact that he was blind with gray eyes.

"And who are you?"

"People called me Old Man Tianji. It's a pleasure to meet you, the Destined One."

'Of course they do,' Wang Wei thought to himself, rolling his eyes. His meeting with the lower-dimension Old Man Tianji was also this random.

"It seems you came here purposely to meet me, but can I ask how you found me?" Wang Wei was curious as even the parasites, who were Paragons and had plenty of manpower, failed to find him, but this old man did.

"I've observed everyone who comes and leaves this place," Old Man Tianji said. "I can say with confidence, whoever it is, I can see some information about their fate — no matter how little. However, you are the only exception, so I deduce who you were."

"What if I was only a man really good at Anti-Divination?"

"I thought of this possibility," Old Man Tianji replied. "That's why I called your status as a test, and based on your reaction, I figured I hit the jackpot."

"I have to say — well played, old man," Wang Wei admitted.

"Thank you. I have a feeling that coming from you, those words mean a great deal."

"They do," Wang Wei acknowledged. "So, why did you want to contact me?"

"For now, I only wanted to ensure you were present at the celebration."

"And why is that?"

"I can't say anything more, but you only need to know your presence, no, your destiny, is essential to whatever is going to happen," Old Man Tianji.

Wang Wei sighed. "I don't appreciate how you know something but keep talking in riddles."

"I am not blessed like you," Old Man Tianji responded, his tone not hiding his envy. "Even at my current cultivation level, there are plenty of secrets of fate that I cannot reveal, or I will suffer tremendous backlash." He was very talented and achieved the realm of Everlasting, but even then, he was permanently blind because of peeping too much into fate when he was a mortal.

"Then, don't say anything — I'll just look it up myself," Wang Wei said as he directly looked at Old Man Tianji's fate line.

"It's useless," the old man said calmly.

"Hmm? What's this?" Wang Wei immediately saw something interesting. "You have more than one fate line? No, that's not it. Your..."

Chapter 1258 Unexpected First Meeting

"Your fate line is intertwined with so many others," Wang Wei commented. Old Man Tianji's fate line was similar to the future he had just seen. It was fascinating.

"Is this a method to protect yourself from Divination Backlash? I have to say, it's quite an ingenious one. I can probably learn a thing or two from it," Wang Wei continued. "But who are those other fate lines? Are they from different people with the name [Old Man Tianji]?"

He frowned as he observed clearly.

"No, these are people you've helped, and in return, you borrow their fate to hide yours. More importantly, you can borrow the luck of these people to help your cultivation. Your school has an interesting way of cultivating fate or destiny," Wang Wei said. "However, if you have such a protective method, why did you go blind? What did you see that permanently closed your eyes?"

"That is not something for you to know," Old Man Tianji replied calmly, making Wang Wei shake his head. It would be a pain to get any information from this man as he tried to decipher all these fate lines, and he knew this man would not just stand there and let him.

Wang Wei sighed, "This is my second time meeting one of you people. Can you at least tell me a bit about your sect?"

"Well, the thing is—"

"If you say any nonsense riddle and do not answer my question, I'll directly ignore the rules and attack you."

Old Man Tianji almost choked on his words. He looked at this handsome man before him, and he could tell he would really attack him if he did not say a word. He sighed, thinking answering a few questions should be fine.

"We are called the Star-Gazing Pavilion. We pursue the mysteries of fate and the secrets of Heaven and Earth."

"You guys are not native to this world, are you?"

"No," Old Man Tianji replied truthfully. "We've spread to many Chaos Worlds."

"So, you're a large faction?"

"We don't have any direct connection, but I'm sure we've interacted somehow," Old Man Tianji replied. "However, such knowledge is above my level."

"Is that so?" Wang Wei muttered. "Yes and no." Old Man Tianji's body trembled when he saw the killing intent in Wang Wei's eyes, so he swiftly answered. "We have many outer members, but only the one who meets the requirements can inherit the name [Old Man Tianji] and officially become an inner member."

"This system reminded me of the Desire Heart Palace. Are they connected somehow?" Wang Wei asked this question.

"We don't have any direct connection, but I'm sure we've interacted somehow," Old Man Tianji replied. "However, such knowledge is above my level."

"Is that so?" Wang Wei muttered. "For such a large faction, why have I only met two of you?"

"Our requirements are strict, and in this era, only I was born in the Eternal Ascension World. Well, if you don't count the little junior in the lower dimension," Old Man Tianji replied. "However, there is a high chance you've met our outer members."

Wang Wei suddenly felt a little paranoid. Could it be that most divination/secret base factions he's met or learned about are related to the Star-Gazing Pavilion in some way or form? He quickly removed that thought from his mind — that would be terrible.

"So, why the name?" he asked. This question was the one he most wanted to know.

Old Man Tianji hesitated momentarily before replying: "It was how our founder wanted things to be."

"You understand that this is fishy, right?" Wang Wei asked. "Names have power, and for so many influential people to share the same one...." He shook his head. "Just like your practice involves borrowing the fate of others, it's apparent that your founder is using all of you by lending you his name. I'm sure you've figured as much."

Old Man Tianji was momentarily quiet: "We all have our destiny."

"Have you accepted your fate?" Wang Wei nodded. "Well, at least I know how you lost your sight. Your founder must be something else for your vision loss to remain permanent even after becoming an Emphyrean. I reckon nothing will change even if you become a Paragon."

"This meeting has officially gone for too long," Old Man Tianji declared as he looked directly at Wang Wei with his somewhat intimidating eyes. "Meeting you might be a positive twist in my destiny or my greatest misfortune." The old man then disappeared.

'Already gone? It seems I hit a nerve,' Wang Wei. 'It's a shame; I wanted to ask him if his sect was connected to the All-Seeing Temple in any way.'

He shook his head before his mind focused on something more substantial.

'The founder of the Star-Gazing Pavilion is definitely a Half-Step Transcendent, and he's likely the kind that achieved it before the Ultimate Taboo. If he had participated in that event, he might have found a way to walk further down the Transcendent Path.'

Wang Wei looked at the sky. 'Foreigners are invading this place. Why? Is it merely because the Eternal Ascension World is weakened, and they want revenge? That is possible, especially if someone detected the Maitreya and Supreme Unity battle.'

'However, from the information I know, these parasites left for the frontier before Maitreya decided to initiate the fight, meaning these people became interested in the Eternal Ascension World before learning of the internal conflict between our transcendents.

'Something must have riled them up.'

Wang Wei did not have to think long to make the connection.

'The Eternal Ascension World is the same as the Myriad Emperor World, but on a much larger scale. As the destiny center, or very close to it, of the entire Chaos Universe, it is the place to most likely start a significant event that affects everyone.

'From Wu Hong's note and the information the sect provided, they mentioned the All Seeing Temple and how these people — despite their greedy practices — usually predict major events affecting the Chaos Universe, including Qiyuan's Second Origin War.

'Could they have predicted the [Third Origin War]? Could they have foreseen the havoc I will bring to the Chaos Universe?'

Wang Wei was not being narcissistic or self-absorbed with that last statement. Many signs have shown that he's done or is doing something that affects the entire world.

Many of the events in his life have proven that his future self is in a war with Grand Dao. However, the most apparent confirmation of his suspicions was the hooded figure that killed him during Gu Xuan's Trial. It's evident that someone sent him from the future to prevent him from growing up and wreaking havoc on the universe.

Wang Wei sighed.

'If whatever is happening in the frontier is the prelude to the upcoming chaos, then my meeting with this Old Man Tianji was not accidental,' he thought. 'He's either a pawn sent by his sect's founder to contact the young version of my future self and plan something. Or, my future self sent him on my path to prepare to contact or deal with the Star-Gazing Pavilion.'

Wang Wei grunted softly as he flew away in a bad mood. Given how little control he had over the entire situation, he hated all these time shenanigans. He also needed to warn himself not to let the motion of his future achievement dull him into thinking he was invincible and destined to survive

any trouble or difficult situation. With all these transcendent players involved in this ultimate game of chess, rewriting the past becomes a common thing — no, a necessity.

'Let's enjoy the hot springs as a way to destress,' Wang Wei thought. The Ubiquitous Hotspring World was divided into six areas related to the elements: Flame, Water, Gold, Wood, Earth, and the central area. Each location had a large hot spring containing the power of the Five Elements, and after bathing in all five, people would head into the center for a combination.

Each area provided immense benefit to all cultivators under Tier 10, and after completing the five sets at the center, even Great Emperors will receive a cultivation acceleration blessing. However, this thing's effect on Emphyreans and above was minimal. There are hidden dimensions with hot springs that are even beneficial to Paragons, but those are rare.

'This place is full of destiny, so it should be relatively easier to find one that benefits my cultivation,' Wang Wei thought as he searched the surroundings. In the process, he encountered two acquaintances — Xu Shi and Lin Fan. They had just found a hidden dimension and were about to enter.

Wang Wei did not want to meet them now, so he sent a greeting and set a meeting for a later date before the celebration. He continued his search, and his Qi Luck Dragon trembled in one of the dimensions. Wang Wei did not hesitate and entered. A strong mist covered the spring, but Wang Wei did not care about that.

He placed his hand on the water.

"Nourishing the body and accelerating the Body-Will Fusion — excellent."

His clothes disappeared, and he entered, exhaling deeply as the sensation was pleasurable.

"You seem distraught instead of being excited."

"Who?" Wang Wei yelled as he stood up for any trouble. He was shocked that he never noticed someone so close to him. The mist dispersed, revealing a beautiful woman with gray hair on the opposite side.

"Hong'er?" Wang Wei said instinctively.

"This is our first meeting, so don't you think calling me so intimately inappropriate?" Wu Hong calmly stated.

Chapter 1259 First Conversation

Wang Wei looked at her, the woman he had spent the past few billion years and more thinking about it. The one that forced him to dream just so he could remember her touch. She was as beautiful as he remembered, maybe even more so since this one differed from the one he married.

This Wu Hong was colder and lonelier, and she did not hide her power or commanding presence. It was apparent to him that this one had a wall surrounding her regarding their relationship. However, a smile crept in the corner of his mouth after seeing her hair color.

"Sorry about that — it was just instinct," Wang Wei finally said before sitting down again in the water.

"I understand your situation is weird, but be mindful that I am not her," Wu Hong calmly stated.

"So, she did leave you her memory?"

"She did, but I sealed most of them," Wu Hong nodded.

"Why?"

"She's biased, and I don't know how she came to be."

Wang Wei nodded. When it came to the time shenanigans that his future self was involved in, his response was usually to begrudgingly go along with it, putting some level of trust in himself and his future. However, it seems that Wu Hong's approach is to be on guard and show no trust whatsoever, which is a fair response.

The dimension suddenly became awkwardly quiet, with the sound of water the only thing echoing in the surroundings.

"Why are you suddenly so quiet? From the memories I kept, you're a very chatty person, especially when you're around her," Wu Hong said.

Wang Wei sighed. "You must give me some grace, as the situation is quite disheartening. I've lived two lives, and it seems my love life might be ill-fated."

"How so?"

"In my first life, my family constantly pressured me to start a family. They even wanted to force me into a political marriage. I died young and without anyone to call a partner.

"Then, in my second life, I finally found a woman that made my heart beat, a woman I want to spend eternity with, but what happened? Well, it turned out she's a clone of a powerful cultivator, and not only is she a clone, but the clone of the future self of that cultivator — a clone that she has no memories or knowledge of making.

"So, the situation turns into the fact that I may lose the love of my life if I don't play my cards correctly. If it isn't ill-fated, I don't know what it is."

"Stating it out loud does put everything into a strange perspective," Wu Hong nodded. She knew the situation was messed up, but it truly dawned on her until he explained it in these words.

"I want to ask you something," Wang Wei continued. "Do I have a chance?"

Wu Hong played with her hair, "I think I've already given you the answer to this question."

"But it's different if I hear it directly from you."

"You should understand that most women do not communicate directly."

"But you're not any woman, are you?" Wang Wei rebutted.

"Fair point," Wu Hong nodded. "The answer is yes, but I want you to understand something clearly: fate has no bearing on whether we end up together. No one is entitled to me — not even Grand Dao."

"That's understandable. I promise to leave you alone if you ask me to."

"Giving up so easily?" she smirked. Wang Wei's heart skipped a beat. She was indeed different, but once in a while, he could detect a sliver of his Wu Hong.

"I believe that's called respective boundaries,' he replied with a more confident smile.

Wu Hong calmly raised her right leg to wash it.

"I have lived a long life, well, at least compared to you. In my long cultivation journey, things have become dull — a fog of continuous gray. But I must admit that the memories of my supposedly other self brought some shade of colors to my life."

She looked him in the eyes.

"Can you be the one to accompany me throughout this journey, or will my life continue as it were before? I'm fine with either outcome."

Wang Wei nodded as he now understood her mindset. The cultivation path is long and arduous, so people have Dao Companions to accompany them. However, someone like Wu Hong, who has already traveled so far, is alright with finding someone to accompany her from now on or continue doing what she's been doing. However, that someone cannot be just anyone else.

"In that case, let's start from the basics," Wang Wei said, deciding to take a regular approach to a truly complex situation.

"Hi, my name is Wang Wei. It's nice to meet you."

Wu Hong looked at him strangely before a soft smile appeared in the corner of her mouth: "Wu Hong and the pleasure is also mine."

"Favorite color?"

"Red and white."

Wang Wei nodded. His Wu Hong's favorite colors were black and red, but it's normal for people's colors to change over time, especially with cultivators' long lifespans.

"Mine is purple and gray," he added. "I'm 1.95 meters tall. You?"

"The same."

"My favorite tea is Longjue tea. Yours?"

"Snow-Trail Tea."

"This answer was also different as this tea was her third favorite," Wang Wei thought. "Favorite food?"

"That would be Dragon Heart, Phoenix Liver, with a side of Dream Rice," Wu Hong answered. "And it cannot just be any dragons. It's the Water Dragon from the Dragon Blessing World. The Phoenix also has to be prepared with Five Elements Materials. Otherwise, its flame Dao will reduce the taste by a lot."

"A food connoisseur, heh?" Wang Wei stated. His Wu Hong was into food, but she never showed him it was to this extent. However, she always said he had never tasted genuinely delicious food.

"What made the dragon from that world so delicious?"

They are the protagonist of their world, so that blessing adds to their taste," Wu Hong explained. "Additionally, the Water Dragons in that world receive a lot of worship due to their control of rivers, oceans, and rains — the incense further elevated the taste. "And as you know, water is the soft element, which makes the dragon's meat incredibly tender," Wu Hong explained. "One time, I hunted three simultaneously and transferred all the taste into a single dish — it was truly sublime. Oh, how I wish I could taste it again."

"You can look forward to it once you return to your full strength."

Wu Hong sighed. "It's not that simple. I'm pretty sure one of those damn dragons acquired a transcendent method. Given how much I hunted them down back then, I must be on some kind of list in that world."

"That's a shame, but one day, we'll also reach that level, and we can hunt those dragons together," Wang Wei said, and Wu Hong noticed the "we" he secretly put in that sentence but did not mention it.

"What about the Phoenix Liver and Dream Rice?"

"The liver corresponds to Wood in the five elements, so after cooking, it basically turns into a vegetable dish," Wu Hong explained. "As for the Dream rice, that's something I got from another Paragon who also loves food. He made everyone in his Grandmist Wheel dream about good food and turn that energy into nourishment to cultivate a rice field."

"I added my specialty to the Six Emotions Seven Desire Spices — and it elevates the rice to another level."

"Wouldn't the negative emotions ruin the taste?"

"I can separate them, but even with them, it doesn't," Wu Hong explained. "Using them gives the sensation when you're eating something so good, but you know it's terrible for your body."

"That sounds heavenly." Wang Wei almost drooled thinking about it.

"It is," Wu Hong nodded. "But enough about me. What's your favorite food?"

"I was going to say braised beef, specifically, the one you made for me by infusing the essence of 12 Tier 9 Demon Bulls into it, but I feel a sense of inferiority after what you just said."

"As you should," Wu Hong said. "That is a pathetic choice."

"And who is to blame?" he stared at her. "Yourself, of course," she replied. "You could have hunted a few demon Emphyreans and learned to make excellent meals with those materials. From what I remember, you had many unique ideas on the culinary arts. So, it's your fault for not pursuing this path and relying on me, I mean, her, to dictate your standard of food."

"Is this a challenge?" Wang Wei asked.

"I'm just stating the truth. It's not my fault if that hurts you."

"Okay, you've done it — you've successfully struck my pride," Wang Wei sneered. "I want you to remember this day. One day, I'll make a meal way better than your favorite or most outstanding culinary achievements. I hope when that day comes, your pride won't get in the way of admitting it is better."

"No need to worry about that," Wu Hong chuckled, her smile brightening the room. "Since that day will never come."

Chapter 1260 Time Mark & ChronoSpirit

"Well, this was more enjoyable than I anticipated," Wu Hong said as she stood up. Wang Wei's eyes were the most focused he's ever been in his life. Sadly, there was a mist around her body that even his fate eyes could not penetrate.

'Damn it,' he cursed, but his face remained unchanged. 'It's not like I haven't seen it before.'

A robe appeared around Wu Hong as she fixed her hair.

"Leaving already?"

"I have something to do," she nodded. Wu Hong then looked at Wang Wei. "You should be careful. Even if destiny is on your side, you should not treat these people carelessly. No matter what, they are Paragons, and that alone makes them a threat."

"I do take them seriously."

"Then, why haven't you protected your Time Mark or established a [ChronoSpirit]? Have you done so for your subordinate? You practice Time Dao, so there should be no issue."

Wang Wei frowned. Time Mark and Chrono Spirits are essential for battles between Paragons; to be precise, battles between Boundless and Inextinguishable Paragons. These two entities are complicated to kill.

One has too many ways to revive themselves, while the other is unkillable unless you weaken their will. However, body refiners are essentially sadists who temper their will by pushing their bodies to the extreme, making their willpower terrifying beyond comprehension.

Given the survivability of these creatures, there should be a ton of them — especially since they have an infinite lifespan. Unfortunately, that is not entirely true. There is a quick and efficient way to kill these creatures: kill their weak past selves.

The restraint of the River of Time is at an all-time low for Paragons, so dealing with each other or weak entities from the Eternal Path is the best way to deal with them.

However, things also become complicated when it comes to messing with time — especially in Source Chaos Worlds. Any changes to time from these worlds can have butterfly effects on the primary River of Time that runs through the entire Chaos Universe.

As such, Paragons had to be clever in how they went about erasing someone from the past. Firstly, they must isolate their enemy's timeline from the River of Fate through their Time Mark before killing them. The process was like scooping one drop of water from an ocean before destroying that drop to prevent it from influencing the entire ocean.

To protect themselves, Paragons will refine ChronoSpirits — an entity that hides their marks and protects their timeline. In the early stages of the development of this world, it was common for someone to secretly discover a Paragon's Time Mark and kill them before they could react. Then, the concept of ChronoSpirit was invented by someone before spreading and becoming part of Paragon's must-do list.

'I never plan to meet these parasites before protecting myself,' Wang Wei thought. He knew it was easier for someone of higher cultivation to detect someone else's Time Mark, so he had already been protected by his mark with [Past Buddha Self]. As for his ChronoSpirit, he planned to refine it after he entered the Taboo Realm and acquired Paragon Strength.

"My Time Mark is protected, and I plan to refine the spirit later on when I'm stronger," Wang Wei explained.

"It's not good enough," Wu Hong shook her head. She raised her hand to condense two talismans. "This is my experience on the matter. Take this seriously since it involves your life." Wang Wei received the talisman, and before he could do a preliminary check, she had disappeared, leaving a few last words:

"We'll meet again once the celebration starts."

Wang Wei smiled: "I'm glad to see she's still a little drama queen."

He may not have detected how fate was guiding him to meet Wu Hong in this place, but there is no chance she did not detect it. Yet, she did not hide, leave, or send him away. Instead, she waited and even wanted to take him by surprise to see how he would react.

Wang Wei focused and read the information in the talisman. His happiness soon dissipated. 'She was right. My method of hiding my mark was truly insufficient.' With a brief introduction, Wang Wei realized his methods were shoddy even to the weakest Paragon.

Wang Wei sighed. He had just wholly adapted to how Emphyreans fought and felt confident that his current techniques would be sufficient against Paragons once he entered the Taboo Battle Realm. However, Wu Hong's warning reminded him that Paragon Battles were another dimension of complexity.

'Why didn't the sect remind me?' Wang Wei said with gritted teeth, trying to blame someone. Since ascending to the upper dimension, he kept making small mistakes, but they were all errors that could easily end his life and cultivation journey. Wang Wei exhaled to calm down.

He knew there was no point in blaming them since he was the one who refused to receive their complete help. The information they provided them warned him of Paragon's ability. Additionally, they probably figured he would lay low for countless yuan epochs to cultivate in the shadow, and only after becoming a Paragon would he start dealing with these parasites.

'Success can easily breed arrogance, and arrogance is the bane of success,' Wang Wei thought as he exhaled. He frowned as he realized something:

'Her tone when she warned me...it was like the danger I'm going to face was not the far future but something coming soon. Does she know something?' Countless thoughts flashed in his mind.

'Could it be that whatever major event that is going to happen involves one of the parasites? It would make sense why I could not detect anything.'

Wang Wei previously thought he failed because Heavenly Dao was involved since so many people with great destinies were present, and possibly because of Xun Junyao's perfect aura that protected her. However, it could be those things and the fact that a Paragon will appear in this event.

'But how can one of them show up in this place? Can they just leave the battlefield unattended? Or are they just sending a clone or projection?' Wang Wei frowned. With Xun Junyao's appeal, he would not be surprised if one of these bastards sneaks in to see her.

'I need to prepare.' Wang Wei immediately contacted Wang Qi and the others, ordering them to prepare for a possible battle. He also activated his Spirit Particle in the Fate Changing Hall, sending a message to all the members to prepare for the possibility of a World Class Mission, which was semi-mandatory.

According to the hall's rules, everyone would be aware of the mission but could still choose not to participate. However, the benefits of such a mission usually offered triple the reward, at a minimum. Of course, it is also stated clearly that such a mission was also generally extremely difficult, hence the increased incentive. Since the hall started, this would be the first World Class Mission.

'I should also prepare some talismans to protect my men's Time Marks, as she said,' Wang Wei thought. He began to comprehend the talisman's contents to prepare while enjoying this bath. Wang Wei lost track of time, and it wasn't until he felt a rush of energy that traveled through his body that he woke up.

'Hmm? I've completed the initial stage of Body-Will Fusion.' He sensed everybody happening in his body. 'Now, I only need to pass the Flesh Tribulation, and I can enter the Fourth Heaven and the Middle Stage. Hopefully, I won't have a bottleneck.' The effect of the hot spring was better than he had imagined.

Now that the spring no longer had any effect on him, Wang Wei left. He was in an excellent mood. His second first encounter with his future wife went well despite the initial awkwardness; she gave him a present, and he made progress in his cultivation. With such an excellent mood, he searched

again for hot springs to help him. He discovered one that gave a 10% blessing in cultivating the soul and used it.

By the time he finished, it was time for his meeting with Xu Shi and Lin Fan, so Wang Wei left. Their meeting was in a private booth in the best restaurant at the center location. The restaurant was called Beauty Palate, and Wang Wei suspected it was one of Xun Junyao's many industries.

By the time he arrived, they were already waiting.

"I thought we were friends," Wang Wei said as soon as he entered the room.

"We are," Xu Shi said, her expression showing she was confused by these words.

"Then, why are you telling Xiao Tiandi about my business?"

"Oh, that," Xu Shi replied. "He came to see me, and his master is friends with our master, so I had to say something." Xu Shi was clever and knew Wang Wei did not mind what she did. However, she immediately revealed small but significant information about Emperor Kong and Xun Junyao to appease him.

"And I did not say anything that wasn't semi-public."

"Is that so," Wang Wei nodded. He had suspicions about some connection between these two, but it was good to have confirmation. "In that case, it's fine."

The three sat down and started their reunion.