

F.D Emperor 1261

Chapter 1261 Lin Fan's Grand Destiny

"How are things have been?" Wang Wei asked after sitting down.

"Good," Xu Shi replied. "It would have been better if the current situation was not as it is." The upper dimension has so many resources, and they have a kind teacher like Emperor Kong.

"I can tell," Wang Wei nodded. He noticed these two had already finished Foundation Re-establishment, and they all completed Nine Supremity Foundation and entered the 10-fold Battle Realm.

"How is Headmaster Bai Han doing? It's been a while since I saw him," Wang Wei asked, somewhat curious whether the latter had reconciled with his father.

"He's doing fine," Lin Fan said before quickly changing the conversation. "Let me ask you: Su Ya never changed her mind, right? After everybody left, she stayed in the lower dimension, correct?"

Wang Wei looked at him, "No, she is still in the lower dimension."

"Good, good, good," he uttered three times, his eyes not hiding his killing intent.

"Have you thought about the consequences of killing her?"

"I know the Yin Moon Palace is one of the upper members of the Grand Sect Alliance. However, the risk should be minimized if I can cultivate fast enough and kill her."

"Normally, that would be the case," Wang Wei replied.

"Does Su Ya have another identity?" Xu Shi immediately asked. They have been investigating the situation and planning this assassination for a while.

"Have you heard of the Yin Moon Palace's [Desire Spectrum Book]?"

"I heard it was one of their sect's Luck Condensing Artifacts, known to be terrifying for its power of illusion and controlling people's emotions," Xu Shi replied. The Grand Sect Alliance used to hold a grant event in which countless sects — including the other Overlords — would send their people to use the book to temper their Dao Heart. Although these factions have their own method, they knew it paled in comparison to that book.

As soon as Xu Shi said these words, her face turned ugly. Lin Fan also figured out something and his expression mirrored his wife's.

"Could it be?"

"That's right," Wang Wei nodded. "Most people don't know that the book is divided into upper and lower parts. The Upper Part was created by Nine Paragons with the Six Emotions Seven Desires Physique — most of which were artificially created since not everyone from the lower dimension could become Paragons.

"Meanwhile, the lower part is incomplete because only the Emperors from the lower dimension can write it. Su Ya will be the eighth writer from the lower dimension, meaning the palace will greatly value her, especially if she becomes an Eternal."

Xu Shi and Lin Fan were quiet. They thought they were lucky since the Yin Moon Palace did not cultivate one of the alliance's 5 Primal Paragons. Sadly, they were confronted with another terrible truth: the limitations of their background. No matter how good Emperor Kong and the Academy's current situation was, it did not change the fact that they were new, meaning they were not privy to many secrets. Additionally, it meant that when facing these ancient behemoths, they could only suffer.

"And this might not be the extent of her value," Wang Wei added.

"There is more? Xu Shi asked.

"Once this era ends, we will not return to the era of the Thirteen Overlord. The next era will be the race for transcendence."

Xu Shi and Lin Fan squinted. Emperor Kong once said something similar but never elaborated on what that meant despite their asking. He only said they were too weak to get involved in such matters.

"After that book is completed, it might reveal a path to transcendence, thus raising its level to an incomprehensible level," Wang Wei continued. He was not saying these words out of nowhere. After his encounter with the Heart Desire Palace, he believed these people had mastered a transcendent path involving Six Emotions, Seven Desires, and obsession.

"What exactly is [transcendence]?" Xu Shi asked. Wang Wei opened his mouth and was about to answer when a weird atmosphere enveloped the room, warning him not to talk too much to these ants about such secrets of Heaven and Earth.

"Well, as you can see, you two are too weak to know such a secret," Wang Wei shrugged. He once told these people some basic information about this path, but he planned to be more detailed this time. However, it seems Grand Dao was not happy with his actions.

Meanwhile, Xu Shi and Lin Fan's faces were paled. The aura that descended in the room was genuinely terrifying.

"However, you should be able to deduce some information," Wang Wei added.

"The two suns," Lin Fan uttered. They had guessed these two had transcended the Paragon Realm.

"That's right," Wang Wei nodded.

"So, there is nothing we can do?" Lin Fan said, anger and hatred flashing in his eyes.

"I never said that," Wang Wei continued. "It will be a race, but just because you guys are behind doesn't mean you can catch up and surpass the people from the Grand Sect Alliance. After all, do you think anyone can walk that path?"

If Maitreya was telling the truth, she plans to share how to achieve Half-Step Transcendence with the world, giving the factions in the Eternal Ascension World a greater opportunity for advancement than the rest of the Chaos Universe. However, even with her gracious actions, the amount of people who will succeed will be counted on one hand. No, the Eternal Ascension World is the destiny center of the Chaos Universe, so that number might increase by 2 or 3 times, but even then, it will take a long time before such a thing is possible. Additionally, Wang Wei has predicted a large migration of foreigners into the Eternal Ascension World who wish to compete for this opportunity. The situation will be chaotic, so it's not even guaranteed some factions from the previous [Thirteen

Overlords] will survive until they can give birth to a Half-Step Transcendent. He did not mention that the Yin Moon Palace would have a target on their backs once people realized the value of that book. Overall, Xu Shi and Lin Fan's situation is not as hopeless as it seems, but it's also not as good since their Academy is not even a Paragon Lineage.

"Thank you for telling us this information," Xu Shi said after regaining her composure.

"Yes, truly, thank you," Lin Fan added. They might have discovered some of this information later on, but the part about transcendence was uncertain. At the very least, it would be too late when they learned about it. Now that they know everything, they can better prepare for what cause of action to take next.

"No problem," Wang Wei waved his hand. He told them for two reasons. Firstly, Xu Shi was indeed a friend, so he did provide some help to her. However, this was now his primary motive. Lin Fan's current situation reminded him of these protagonists in novels who wanted revenge. Unfortunately, their target was a powerful faction that forced them to cultivate a much higher realm before avenging their hatred.

'One way luck and destiny manifest themselves is by giving their chosen one an impossible task to conquer,' Wang Wei thought. 'Lin Fan, as a possible chess piece of the Chaos Demon Gods, was granted the destiny of overcoming the Yin Moon Palace.'

'No, with how weird Emperor Kong's destiny is, it might be their task is to overcome one of the Thirteen Overlords, and luckily, it's the Grand Sect Alliance.'

These two were lucky their destiny did not target the Dao Opening Sect. Otherwise, Wang Wei would immediately eliminate them after deducing everything. He would not even spare Xu Shi because of their friendship.

'The question now is why the Grand Sect Alliance?' Wang Wei thought. 'Was it chosen randomly amount of the Thirteen Overlord? Or because they were previously the most powerful?' Countless thoughts flashed in his mind.

'It could also be related to that book. If it's really a prototype to a transcendent path, maybe their sect cannot bear the luck of having such an object, and their eventual destruction is the result of luck backlash,' Wang Wei analyzed. 'This conjecture sounds the most logical and likely, but I feel something bigger is at play. There is a more grand picture that I'm not seeing.'

Xu Shi glanced at Wang Wei. She could tell he knew way more than he was letting on. However, she also knew there was no point in asking since he did not share it in the first place. Everything this man did was calculated, so there was no point in asking if he had already decided how much information to share.

"Alright, let's get on topic," Wang Wei said. He had already deduced Lin Fan's future, which was full of struggle against the Grand Sect Alliance and his attempt at reviving his child. Although he felt bad for his friend that was about to get sucked into that whirlpool, there was nothing he could do unless Xu Shi wished to separate from him.

The only thing Wang Wei can do is, at the right time, remind her to lean more on Emperor Kong's destiny so as not to be swallowed entirely by her husband's destiny. It would be best for her to acquire a destiny on par with these two, but this was not a simple feat.

Chapter 1262 The Academies

"Did Emperor Kong say anything about the celebration?" Wang Wei asked.

"Anything specific?" Xu Shi asked.

"Anything about how weird this event is."

"Hmm, the master did start acting weird after arriving in this place," Lin Fan added.

"As soon as he arrived, he told us he wanted to check something and left. He didn't tell us anything else," Xu Shi nodded.

'So, Kong is not part of this event,' Wang Wei thought. However, with the latter's friendship with Xun Junyao, he might be able to get more information.

"Do you want to see our master?" Xu Shi asked.

"That would be best," Wang Wei nodded.

"We will pass your request to him," Xu Shi said. The three then chatted about many other things, mainly their experience since ascending. The food was delicious, but Wang Wei was disappointed after imagining the food his future wife talked about. Once everything finished, they separated.

Wang Wei returned to his inn and started protecting his Time Mark. He realized it was hard to improvise substantially in such a short period, so he thought of another method inspired by his meeting with Old Man Tianji.

He used the Time Mark of a bunch of mortals and people weaker than him to hide his mark. He summoned a projection of the River of Fate to control the mortals. As for the cultivators and people weaker than him, Wang Wei mainly used the people from his Fate Changing Hall. With this method, a Paragon would have to skim through trillions of other people's Time Marks before having a chance at finding his.

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Emperor Enlightening Academy's Resting Post:

Xu Shi and Lin Fan returned home. After today's meeting, they had a lot on their minds, so they remained quiet for more than an hour after returning home.

"Do you think we should tell the master what we've learned?" Lin Fan asked.

"It's probably best if we do so. We won't be able to hide it for long anyway."

"True."

They waited for a few hours until Emperor Kong returned home. He was apparently distracted, his mind still occupied by whatever meeting he had just attended. However, as soon as Kong saw his disciples, he could tell they wanted to speak to him.

"Did something happen?"

"Well, yes," Xu Shi said. She took a moment and explained everything that occurred with the meeting with Wang Wei.

"The Grand Sect Alliance again — it seems they are destined to be our enemy," Emperor Kong sighed. The most prominent Academy of the Eternal Ascension World is the Benevolent Oath Academy, and they are the top member of the alliance, taking a spot amongst the Five Primal Paragons.

However, that academy suffered tremendously in this era as the parasites eradicated or shut down all their branches because they did not want them to continue training more cultivators and because the academy had such an enormous influence due to how many cultivators owed them karmic debt.

Then, Emperor Kong came along and convinced the parasites to re-open the academies to serve them under his leadership. Since then, the Benevolent Oath Academy has sent people to secretly contact him, both in an attempt to recruit and intimidate him.

After experiencing a few plots and schemes, Emperor Kong has long predicted that the alliance might be the destined enemy in his rise to the top of the Eternal Ascension World.

"The Yin Moon Palace," Emperor Kong muttered. "I never thought they would become such an important piece." He still could not understand how this book involved the Transcendent Path. Then, he remembered something:

'The Heart Desire Palace?' Kong had collected the ruins and records of many top lineages to make up for his Academy's foundation, so he knew many secrets.

'It would explain why so many factions feared them,' Emperor Kong thought. 'Everything makes sense if these two factions had Half-Step Transcendence cultivators before the Ultimate Taboo.' Now that he had figured out the ins and outs, Emperor Kong thought about how to use this information. Sadly, as of now, their academy is too weak to get involved in anything associated with transcendence.

"Master, what should we do now?" Lin Fan asked.

"We must take this opportunity that the Grand Sect Alliance's Paragons and Primals are dead to secretly weaken them as much as possible," Emperor Kong stated. "We can probably work with Wang Wei," Xu Shi shared. "With his personality, he won't accept the Dao Opening Sect not being the best. In fact, he's probably already planning on how to weaken the Grand Sect Alliance."

"That's a good idea," Emperor Kong nodded. "However. If what you say about him is true, we should watch out so that he doesn't sacrifice us when things are over."

"True," Xu Shi nodded. "By the way, he also wants to meet you."

"It's about time we meet officially," Emperor Kong nodded. "However, let's wait until the celebration ends." Xun Junyao refused to tell him anything concrete, but with Wang Wei's presence and his destiny, he guessed something significant was about to happen. As such, he decided to wait and observe first before meeting Wang Wei.

"Master, did something happen on your side?" Lin Fan asked.

Emperor Kong's eyes suddenly lit up. "I just received some important news from Xun Junyao that benefits our current situation. I was previously hesitating given the risks involved, but now, I know this may be our only chance."

"Oh?"

"It's about something called the Mortalhood Trial," Emperor Kong stated before explaining everything.

"That is indeed great news," Lin Fan said. He did not know when Su Ya would ascend, but the higher their cultivation by the time she did, the better the situation for him.

"Do you want me to ask Wang Wei to convince the Dao Opening Sect?" Xu Shi asked.

"No need for that for now," Emperor Kong replied. "Xun Junyao told me she would meet with the Dao Opening Sect's current sect leader and ask him personally. If that doesn't work, we'll use the Wang Wei approach."

"Good," she nodded.

"One more thing. You guys need to leave immediately," Emperor Kong said.

"Huh, why?"

"I can't get any information about the situation, but I know for sure it will be dangerous," Emperor Kong said.

"So, it's because we're too weak," Xu Shi said, saying what he did not want to say.

"You guys are young and full of potential, meaning you have plenty of room to grow," Emperor Kong reassured them.

Lin Fan sighed. "It's a shame."

"What? Upset that you won't get to see the most beautiful woman in the world," Xu Shi sneered.

"Aren't you curious?" Lin Fan asked. "The way some people describe her beauty is even more extreme than those fanatic believers who give everything — including their life and soul — to their gods."

The craziest people Lin Fan had met were fanatic believers. He once took a task from the rebellion to recruit this 'God' who walked the faith path, and his fanatic believers were something else. However, the descriptions of people regarding Xun Junyao's beauty are even more extreme.

Lin Fan once heard a rumor that an Everlasting Empyrean went mad because he tried to paint Xun Junyao but failed to capture the essence of her beauty. He thought this was a rumor, but his master confirmed this news.

"Master, is she truly that beautiful?" Lin Fan asked. Xu Shi looked at her master, also intrigued. Although she once held the title of the most beautiful woman in the world, there were few individuals who could compete with her in the entire lower dimension. And in the Eternal Ascension World, her beauty might be in the top 10, maybe even top 20.

"Hmm, how do I explain it," Emperor Kong uttered. "You know the saying: beauty is in the eyes of the beholder?"

They nodded.

"Well, she's the embodiment of that."

Xu Shi and Lin Fan were confused as this was not what they expected him to say. On the contrary, they thought he would say something like her beauty transcends preference, ethnicity, and even race. So, they looked at him with an expression that said: what does that even mean?

"You'll have plenty of opportunities to meet her and understand what I'm saying," Emperor said, refusing to elaborate more. "Now, prepare to leave. I don't want you to be drawn into this chaos accidentally."

The two had to prepare for their departure. Xu Shi facilitated the upcoming meeting with Wang Wei before leaving the Ubiquitous Hotspring World. Meanwhile, Wang Wei spent the rest of the time working on his Time Mark.

The Heavenly Beauty Palace descended on the central area a week after his arrival. Three days later, the celebration started, causing a small commotion. On that day, it became apparent that three kinds of people were attending: VIPs, common invitations, and no-invitation.

The VIPs were in a separate room above the celebration area. They were the first to arrive, and most did so quietly without exposure to the public. Xiao Tiandi was kind enough to give Wang Wei a VIP invitation.

Chapter 1263 Second Meeting

Wang Wei walked into his room and immediately stopped. His lips twitched as he saw a woman with long black hair already there. "Young Lady, you're in the wrong booth."

"Am I?" Wu Hong replied. She continued sipping her drink without looking at him. Wang Wei sighed and sat on the cushion next to her. He looked at her black hair.

"Your hair looks great," he commented.

"At least try to make the compliment sound plausible."

"I'm very sincere."

Wu Hong looked him in the eyes. "Your current appearance is very handsome."

Wang Wei's lips twitched and he reverted the transformation. "See? Now, we no longer match."

"Just turn your hair black."

"How about we compromise and choose another color."

"How about we retain our individualistic identities and choose something we enjoy."

"Fair," Wang Wei nodded. The room had a small table before them with a wine bowl. "Yours or something the celebration served?"

"Not mine, but it's quite enjoyable," Wu Hong replied. "It's Celestial Monkey Wine. Although there is no benefit for your realm, it's extremely delicious."

Wang Wei trusted this rich woman's taste, so he took a sip. His eyes immediately lit up as she was correct: this thing was absurdly delicious. After a sip, his Essence Qi Flower activated, and he could feel the bottleneck between the Third and Fourth Heaven slowly dissipating. If not for the fact he needed to pass the tribulation, he might have immediately entered the Fourth Heaven.

Wang Wei soon finished the wine in his glass, and the thing filled itself without him doing anything. "They went all out, haven't they?"

"This is the bare minimum for a celebration of this scale."

"Did you ever have a grand celebration like this?"

"Yes, for becoming a Paragon and Primal," Wu Hong replied.

"I figure you were not the type for grand celebrations."

"Now, I'm not, but in my younger years..." Wu Hong did not elaborate further. "Plus, it's a great way to amass resources." Wang Wei nodded. As they were talking, the celebration officially started.

Wang Wei and Wu Hong's booth was on the second floor, but there was a formation that allowed them to see the events on the first floor while hiding their booth.

"Great Emperor Jin Long, from the Star Envoy Palace," said a beautiful voice that echoed throughout the palace. "Gift: A Tier 11 Star Nourishing Pill." A thin man with a robe with star patterns walked on the first floor and found his name on one of the seats.

"Starting strong, I see," Wang Wei commented. The Star Nourishing Pill was an extreme healing medicine. If an Empyrean died and wanted to revive themselves, the pill would allow them to return with full strength in less than 10 Yuan Epoch, which is an absurdly short time for an Empyrean to revive unless they use longevity resources or a pile of rare resources.

"Great Emperor Dragon Eyes, loose cultivator. Gift: Taiyi Soul Pill."

'Another extremely rare pill,' Wang Wei thought. This pill was one of the best to help Empyreans condense a Paragon Soul. 'This bastard probably got it by chance, but he ruined his destiny by giving it to a woman who won't give him a second glance after this celebration.'

Wang Wei looked at the short man with reptilian eyes walking into the room. As expected, after checking his Qi Luck Dragon, Wang Wei saw signs of decay. 'His dragon eye is not bad. Maybe I can recruit him into the Changing Fate Hall.'

The announcement continued, and soon afterward, the announcer started introducing Empyreans — who were the majority of attendees at this event. And as expected, the gifts became more extravagant. Someone even brought a Life Defying Pill as a gift, which was a second-order longevity pill. Wang Wei cursed these horny bastards

Once everybody was introduced, the announcer said: "Now, for the VIPs." She paused for a brief second.

"Firstly, Empress Wu from Origin Seal Continent. She could not attend the event, but she sent her regards and a protective talisman." The murmurs started as soon as she announced this. A few taboo entities existed in this terrible era, and everyone knew Empress Wu was at the top. And even if the announcer did not specify the protective talisman level, they could guess.

Wang Wei looked at her: "So, are you a ghost or something?"

"Is that your attempt at humor? That was terrible," Wu Hong said as she sipped her drink.

Wang Wei shrugged. "I have my low points, and don't change the subject."

"When it comes to events like this, I rarely show myself publicly since my presence intimidates people. Plus, when it's not about me, I don't want to draw too much attention during someone else's event."

"I guess that makes sense," Wang Wei nodded. The announcer then announced someone from the Grand Sect Alliance, followed by someone from the Dao Opening Sect. It was the sect master, an Everlasting Empyrean called Yu Cai, and he brought a Tier 12 Void Breaking Talisman as a gift.

'So, in this generation, someone from the sectarian faction is the sect master in the upper dimension?' Wang Wei pondered. Then, something suddenly came to mind, so he looked at Wu Hong:

"By the way, did my ancestor come as well?"

"Now you remember her?" Wu Hong almost rolled her eyes. "She's in retreat."

"Is everything alright?"

"She had some inspiration about her swordsmanship," Wu Hong explained.

"Can she still have inspiration about swordsmanship? Or right, she did change to the Ultimate Sword Path," Wang Wei nodded, sipping his tea.

"You once told me that if you had a life and death fight with her, you would be the last one standing despite the fact her attack potency surpasses yours. Will that still be the case after her retreat?"

"Yes," Wu Hong replied confidently.

"Really?"

"Why do you sound surprised?" "I figure you both should have improved after the Ultimate Taboo, which should cancel each other out. Then, with the Ultimate Taboo and you not using the Perfect Foundation, the ancestor would have the advantage."

"You have underestimated the complexity of battle amongst Paragons who have truly reached the limit of power," Wu Hong explained. "And I can tell you, in the Chaos Universe, a very small number of Paragons can defeat me in a battle. However, there is no one I cannot kill. It's just that the price I'll have to pay is my life, which is not worth it."

'Damn, her overwhelming confidence is hot,' Wang Wei thought, trying to remain calm and composed not to embarrass him. "Quite confident, aren't you? I wonder where it comes from?"

"That is for me to know and for you to hopefully learn about," Wu Hong replied, and Wang Wei just smiled. He knew their trust in each other was nowhere near the level of the other clone.

"What's your relationship with Xun Junyao?" Wang Wei suddenly asked.

"Why are you asking?" Wu Hong asked calmly. "Are you already planning on how to regulate your harem properly?"

Wang Wei almost dropped the cup he was putting on his mouth. Luckily, his control of strength was unworldly, so nothing happened. He continued his sip before calmly replying: "Don't say such a thing. My poor heart cannot handle the stress from your words."

Wu Hong gave him a short glance before replying: "I'm the one who protected her from the claws of those bastards."

"Really? I thought she used their attraction for him to balance them out and keep herself safe."

"She did, but such a tactic can only be effective to a certain extent," Wu Hong explained. "When it comes to these beasts who are drunk on power, it wouldn't surprise anyone if they used force to get what they want or decide to share her like an object. And even if the men could be controlled, the woman would also want to destroy her out of jealousy."

"So, you warn them?"

"I put the fear of god in their soul."

Wang Wei resisted the urge to yell the words: Damn, that's hot. Instead, he sighed deeply.

"What's wrong?" Wu Hong asked.

"Power is truly an attractive thing."

Wu Hong was baffled since these words came out of nowhere. Then, she remembered what a little pervert this bastard was. She glanced at him and smirked. Meanwhile, Wang Wei was satisfied he was able to express his desire in a more sophisticated manner.

The announcements continued, and soon, Wang Wei heard of someone he knew — Emperor Kong. The latter's gift was a Sage Blessing Banner, which surprised Wang Wei slightly, but it also made sense. This banner was something that only people who condense a Golden Body of Merit can refine at a small cost.

It contains some of the protective ability of Sage of Merit, along with a significant cultivation blessing. The announcements continued, and Wang Wei's name was the last person from the VIP section to be read out loud.

"Wei Tian, loose cultivator and close friend of young master Xiao Tiandi," the voice announced. "Gift:" She suddenly paused, making people wonder if this person embarrassed themselves and did not even bring a gift.

"An acquired Perfect Tear," she announced a few seconds later.

Chapter 1264 The Perfect Beauty

"Does such a thing exist?" someone murmured.

"Maybe? He wouldn't be stupid to bring something fake to this celebration, right?"

"Who knows? These people will do anything to gain Lady Xun's favor," another person sneered.

"You're wrong," said a third person.

"Do you know something?"

"Acquired Perfect Tear does exist, and only those who have made some progress in studying Immortal Perfection can condense it. However, it takes so much time and effort that it's not worth it."

"So, this guy is an expert?"

"Not necessarily. He might have just found it somewhere."

"Perfect Tear—the rumors are Lady Xun is a reincarnation of such a thing. Doesn't that mean his gift is literally the perfect one?"

Once someone said that, the room instantly became quiet. Then, jealousy poured in; it was so intense that it almost condensed into a visible form. Everyone wished they had thought of such a gift or capable of making/acquiring it.

Second Floor:

"What a thoughtful gift," Wu Hong commented.

"Isn't it?" Wang Wei replied as he sipped his wine. He had to use his Perfect Aura and some of his blood to condense that thing. And even then, if not for the fact he had intimate knowledge of the tear's composition and effect, he might not have succeeded.

"Is it me, or do I hear the sound of jealousy?" Wang Wei chuckled.

"You wish."

"Don't worry. When I bring you gifts, they will be more personal and thoughtful." Wu Hong resisted the urge to roll her eyes and continued drinking.

The celebration continued despite many people who had decided they would remember Wang Wei, especially if his gift had any positive effect on Lady Xun. According to these people's thinking, since Wei Tian is the young master's peer, he should only be a Great Emperor. So, many people thought of secretly educating them, some even planning on how to assassinate him.

"Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for honoring the lady with your presence," the announcer stated, her beautiful voice calm and steady. "However, the banquet is limited, so not everyone can participate. So, for those without an invitation, we've designated an area outside the palace for your stay. There will be visual formations to display what is happening inside."

As soon as she said these words, a cacophony of voices thanked her and the palace for her generosity. The number of people without an invitation was at least a hundred times larger than the rest, and these people knew it was shameful for them to show up uninvited. So, they respected that the Heavenly Beauty Palace treated them so kindly despite their social indiscretion.

The announcer calmly accepted these people's respect before continuing: "Now that everything is settled let the celebration begin. Ladies and gentlemen, respected Immortals, Emperors, and Emperreans, please welcome the Palace Master."

Everyone on the first floor stood up. This banquet hall floor was large, with countless people sitting at their small personal tables. The room was shaped like a rectangle, with a stadium on the west side. An intoxicating smell suddenly enveloped the palace, followed by multicolored flowers and beautiful tiny fairies dancing around.

A woman walked onto the podium. She wore a slightly modified formal white and yellow dress that trailed more than three meters behind her as she walked. She wore a light gold phoenix hairpiece to hold her hair. Meanwhile, the upper part of her robe was elegant and noble, but once it reached the lower part, it was more open as each stride showed her long white leg with skin so smooth that a baby would be jealous.

As she walked into the room, so many people instinctively stopped breathing. It was as if they feared their shallow breath would affect the natural rhythm that her body naturally emitted. The light in the room dimmed everywhere except where she stood, which was not something she did but a natural effect of her heavy-defying beauty.

Sounds of the Dao naturally accompanied Xun Junyao, and even the ground of the podium she walked on suddenly became more lively as if it was a blessing for her to walk upon it. Everyone on the first floor looked at her in a daze, all with a look of desire, longing, and pure joy. In fact, the joy these people were experiencing was so intense that it affected their very soul. If any of them could

control themselves and immediately enter seclusion, they would realize that many of their past bottlenecks had exponentially reduced, and their cultivation speed had a blessing of 20%.

On the second floor, Wang Wei was stunned after laying eyes on Xun Junyao.

"What do you see?" Wu Hong suddenly said.

"I see you, but more perfect," Wang Wei answered in a trance-like state. He finally understood why so many people were infatuated with her. No matter who looked at her, they would see an optimized version of whatever they think is the most beautiful person.

In other words, for people with Dao Companions who believe their partner is the most beautiful woman in the world, that's who they will see with some improvement. However, if that is not the case, they will see whatever their idealized version of beauty is but with a touch of improvement/imperfection. In simpler terms, Xun Junyao's perfect beauty meant she had a filter on her face at all times.

"Wait," Wang Wei suddenly said as he turned to look at Wu Hong. "Did you just use a spiritual hint on me?"

"I wanted you to tell the truth."

Wang Wei squinted his eyes, snorted coldly, and turned around to continue looking at Xun Junyao. He took a sip of his drink, but that thing was no longer as delicious.

Xun Junyao glanced at Wang Wei's booth from the corner of her eyes. She could tell the one she wanted to meet was there. She also realized that he was the one her disciple invited, which was an unexpected coincidence, and explained many things about his weird behavior.

'No, not a coincidence — it's fate,' Xun Junyao thought. She smiled, instantly brightening the room. "I sincerely thank all of you for giving me the honor of attending my celebration." She cupped her hand and saluted everyone. Her pleasant voice echoed in the room.

"The honor is ours," replied the first-floor attendees, their voices in perfect harmony. However, one of the Emphyreans on the second floor suddenly said:

"Laxy Xun Junyao, I wish you eternal beauty, everlasting success, and boundless merit in your cultivation journey."

The other people cursed that they reacted so slowly. So, everyone said in unison:

"Lady Xun Junyao, we wish you eternal beauty, everlasting..."

"Thank you," Xun Junyao said with a sincere smile before motioning for everyone to sit down as she did so. "I only have two hobbies: enjoying good food and appreciating the art, and that's exactly what we're going to do for the first part of this banquet," She pointed to a small designated area before her stadium.

"If anyone wishes to show their talent, now is the time." One person from the first floor was swift, and before she even finished her words, he was already on the talent podium.

"Laxy Xun, I am Empyrean Heartfelt Song. I have spent 30,000 Yuan Epochs writing this song for you."

"I've heard about you," Xun Junyao nodded. This man was slightly famous because he was an ordinary Nightingale Demon with a low bloodline that slowly crawled to his current level. He was also a renowned musician with outstanding achievements in Sound Dao.

Heartfelt Song felt great joy by these words, but he quickly controlled himself. He closed his eyes briefly to enter the best state before singing.

Second Floor:

"I can tell you're upset," Wu Hong said.

Wang Wei did not say anything. A snack appeared on his table: they were fruits that resembled grapes, except they were red, blue, and purple. He sensed the power of the sun, moon, and stars in these grapes, so he tried them. They were delicious and beneficial to the soul, but he was not in the mood, so he stopped after tasting the three flavors.

"The silent treatment, really? Isn't that a little immature?" Wu Hong continued.

Wang Wei summoned a gourd to drink his own wine; he also chose a strong one that could give him the buzz feeling of getting drunk. Wu Hong sighed. She knew he would be upset. After all, influencing someone who hates being controlled and pursues absolute freedom is genuinely terrible.

"I knew you might react this way, so I brought this for you."

A small opened box appeared in her hand with a red pill with Dao Patterns in the form of a dragon. Wang Wei glanced at it and recognized it: a Primordial Essence Blessing Pill. After eating it, he can instantly rise three levels in the Adult Fiendgod Realm as long as he takes it before the Sixth Heaven.

In other words, after entering the Third Heaven and eating this pill, Wang Wei can immediately reach the Seven Heaven. This thing is scarce because of the material and because it requires a Paragon Pill Refiner to make it, even though it's only usable by Emphyreans.

He looked at the pill. He did not touch it but focused on her. "I haven't heard an apology yet."

"I'm sorry, truly," Wu Hong stated without hesitation. Wang Wei looked her in the eyes. He understood why she did it; she's not as trusting as her other selves, which is understandable. However, he was not happy with how he went about it.

"You should understand as you require certain decorum, understanding, and respect from me, I also require the same thing from you," Wang Wei stated.

"I do," Wu Hong nodded. "I promised I won't cross that line again."

"Fine, I can forgive you," Wang Wei said. "But I also want a kiss on the cheek."

"Don't push your luck."

Wang Wei raised his hand in submission. He had to try. He put the pill away with a smile on the corner of his mouth. He sipped his gourd but felt this thing was too heavy for the occasion, so he went back to drinking his Monkey Wine.

Chapter 1265 The Faceless Woman

"So, we're good?" Wu Hong asked.

"Of course," Wang Wei nodded. "But I would like to remind you that in our future arguments, I will be petty and bring up today's event to win."

Wu Hong's body suddenly paused before sneering, "Do that, and I will bring up the maid, Dong Lifan, and even her." She pointed at Xun Junyao in the stadium. Wang Wei looked at her with mouth open — he was speechless.

"That's a dirty move, and you know it."

"Since you want to be petty, two can play this game."

Wang Wei was out of words, so he could only eat his grape and sip his drink in response. He had lost this battle of words.

"By the way, what does she truly look like," Wang Wei asked, finding Xun Junyao's situation quite fascinating.

"You don't want to know."

"Now, I'm even more curious," Wang Wei said as he focused his eyes. He tried to look through whatever power was around her face and body. However, it was to no avail, so Wang Wei had to summon a projection of the River of Fate to boost his efforts. Sadly, even that did not work. Feeling challenged, Wang Wei chose to use more extreme measures. He temporarily lifted the seals in his soul, accessing the full power of his Paragon Soul. He observed Xun Junyao alone with his soul, and the result was the same — she looked like a more perfect version of Wu Hong.

Wang Wei then immediately activated the perfect aura from his body and used it in tandem with his Paragon Soul. Her face blurred temporarily as if he was about to break through that veil, but he failed at the last minute.

Wang Wei sighed in resignation and looked at Wu Hong: "A little help, please."

"Are you sure you want to see?" she asked a second time.

"I am."

"Alright." She tapped on the side of his forehead, and Wang Wei's eyes suddenly felt a cold power running through it. He immediately focused on Xun Junyao, and his eyes squinted.

"She has no face?"

"That's right."

Wang Wei calmly observed her. It was truly bizarre. In his current sight, her head was empty with no skull, muscles, tissues, or any skins — just nothing there. He checked her soul, and it was there, but it also had facial expressions, just a vague outline of her face.

"What's going on?" Wang Wei asked.

"It's her curse," Wu Hong explained.

"An Innate Curse?" It was rare for cultivators to be born with a curse, but it does happen. For example, the Sword Empress was born with her talent sealed, which can be considered an Innate Curse.

"Even worse, it's a Grand Dao Curse," Wu Hong explained. "Nothingness and Perfection are the most common path of transcendence — especially the latter. For eons, countless people believed it was the only way to go beyond the Paragon Realm, and they were correct.

"Becoming Perfect means becoming closer to resembling Grand Dao. Do you think it would allow someone who embodies the concept of perfection to exist without adverse effects?"

"So, Grand Dao created a flaw for Xun Junyao by taking away her face, ensuring she was not truly perfect and that no one could study her to achieve true perfection," Wang Wei sighed.

"That's right."

Wang Wei became quiet.

"What? Now that you know the truth, are you less attracted to her?" Wu Hong asked with a smirk.

"Is that your goal? Are you trying to eliminate the competition?" Wang Wei retorted, and she rolled her eyes. She would not have shown it to him if that were the case." Wang Wei chuckled. "I think it's worth it. She loses her face, but in exchange, she has the best foundation to walk the transcendent path." As long as Xun Junyao becomes a peak Paragon and has some achievements in studying Immortal Perfection, she can make up for her flaw and use that foundation to enter the Half-Step Transcendence Realm.

"You're only saying that because you're looking at things purely logically," Wu Hong added.

"People have been telling the poor girl she was the most beautiful woman in the world for as long as she can remember. Yet, whenever she tries to look at herself, she sees nothing.

"I've read about people like her during my travels in Primordial Chaos, and from my experience, all those people die tragically by taking their own lives. The fact that Xun Junyao can live until she becomes a Paragon is a testament to her willpower and Dao Heart."

"You make a good point," Wang Wei nodded. Now that she reminded him of this perspective, his respect for Xun Junyao increased immensely.

"I now kind of understand what kind of vulnerable mindset she was in when she chose that Dao," Wang Wei stated. "However, I think it's a waste. Chaos Dao is literally perfect for her."

"Chaos Dao?" Wu Hong muttered, and she immediately understood. "The primary 3800 Dao represents the original and perfect state of the universe, so they match her situation.

"And it seems even fate is trying to guide her by granting someone with the first physique as her disciple."

Then, Wu Hong frowned.

"You noticed too, huh."

"Yes, it's a contradiction," Wu Hong nodded. Grand Dao restricts her by limiting her perfection, but it also uses fate to influence her to walk the path of perfection.

"What do you think is the reason?" Wang Wei asked.

"Grand Dao's contradictions are usually because it wants people to play by the established rules," Wu Hong replied calmly. "So, it could mean it wants Xun Junyao to walk that path, but she must work for it and earn that strength.

"Or, the more likely scenario, someone intervened and messed up Grand Dao's layup."

"The Adjudicator of Fate," Wang Wei replied.

"You think it's him?"

"I know he did something for Grand Dao to wish to replace him," Wang Wei analyzed. "What if his crime was studying perfection?"

"Maybe," Wu Hong uttered.

"You don't agree?"

"No," she replied. "One of the fundamental characteristics of Half-Step Transcendence is that the application of the rules no longer restricts them. The stronger they are, the more that is so.

"Although the Fate Adjudicator is technically an Employee of Grand Dao, I don't think the rules would restrict him so much that he could not study perfection."

"You may have a point," Wang Wei nodded. "So, what do you think he did?"

"I think his crime was lusting after his boss' power," Wu Hong said. "As I said, perfection means becoming closer to Grand Dao. I think he wanted to cultivate a perfect being that contains the essence of Grand Dao. Then, he would study it in an attempt to reach higher levels."

"You may be into something," Wang Wei said with bright eyes. He peeked at the essence of Grand Dao when he established his Perfection Foundation. If he had someone like Xun Junyao – who achieved Half-Step Transcendence — to learn from, Wang Wei could not imagine what he could accomplish.

"If that is genuinely his crime, I must say I respect him a lot more," Wang Wei stated. His views of the Six Cardinal Tribunals are that they chose to serve Grand Dao in exchange for keeping their strength after their long service ended. However, he would respect him much more if the Fate Cardinal became ambitious and tried another method.

"Now we're on this topic; I suddenly thought of someone else."

"Are you talking about Di Tian?"

"Yes," Wang Wei nodded. "I originally thought he was a pawn of the Samsara Cardinal, but with his obsession with perfection, he might have been the Fate Cardinal's pawn first."

Di Tian studied Creation first and was already obsessed with creating the perfect life form in his first life. So, there is a high chance the Fate Cardinal abandoned him after his second life when he started cultivating Samsara Dao. Or, the Samsara Cardinal might have made a deal with Fate to get her hands on Di Tian.

Wu Hong sighed, "Obsession is a powerful force, but it's also the easiest way to manipulate someone."

"Wiser words have never been said," Wang Wei said as he chugged his win. "So, what's your obsession?"

"Me? It used to be to prove to the world that I was worthy," Wu Hong said. "But now, it's no longer an obsession and more like a goal or desire that has been transformed into something else."

"I guess you're lucky to have escaped such a shackle," Wang Wei replied with a wry smile. Di Tian, Lin Fan, and likely Xun Junyao are pawns that these higher beings used obsession to control. But wasn't it the same for him?

The sad truth is that as long as he is obsessed with pursuing freedom and becoming free and unfettered, he will always be a pawn.

"Discouraged?" Wu Hong asked.

"Of course not," Wang Wei sneered. "Until the very end, it's not known who is the pawn or who is the chess player."

"That's more like it," she smiled.

Chapter 1266 The Lost Era

A new kind of snack appeared before Wang Wei, and it looked like gelo, to be specific — a slime. It took him a moment to recognize it as the Spine Fluid from a creature called the Dragon-Spine Lizard. This thing can instantly raise an Empyrean's soul by 30%.

Wang Wei shook his head. Sometimes, it was a curse to be too strong. He slowly ate, and as described in the records, it was also quite delicious.

"By the way, how come Xun Junyao's faceless situation is not a much bigger deal," Wang Wei asked.

"No one can see through it, except probably these two," Wu Hong replied as she also enjoyed the spine fluid.

"No one? Including Paragons?"

"Yes."

"Then, you?"

"She showed it to me," Wu Hong explained. "She wanted to see if I could seal her flaw and give her a face. Sadly, I couldn't do it then."

"Then?" Wang Wei caught the crucial part of her words.

"After reading about the Perfect Foundation and learning more about Perfection, I think I can make a flawed seal."

"Flawed? Is it because the essence of perfection is transcendent level?"

"Correct," Wu Hong nodded. "So, my seal might give her an ordinary face. However, I'm unsure if I want to do that now."

"Oh, why?"

"I kind of agree with you," Wu Hong explained. "Of all living beings, she has probably the highest chance of taking a step in the transcendent path. If I act now, I might ruin her potential."

"Do you want to allow her to choose?"

"Yes, but only after she sees you."

"What do I have to do with this?"

"You'll see."

"Don't start acting like those old cultivators who like to act all secretive, only revealing half the truth and talking in riddles."

Wu Hong rolled her eyes. "Some things are simply not my business."

"Of, come on: give me something."

"She has a mental barrier to overcome, and meeting you is the key. That's all I'm willing to say."

Wang Wei looked at her.

"What's with that look?"

"Why does your relationship with her sound like a master and disciple?"

"It's not like that," Wu Hong shook her head. "As you know, I received much help from the female Paragons during my growth, and to express my gratitude, I've been doing the same for any potential female cultivator."

"Girl Power," Wang Wei waved his fist.

Wu Hong once again rolled his eyes. "That's...what's the word? Oh, yeah, cringe."

"Ouch!" Wang Wei felt like a critical blow hit him. Is there anything worse than being called [cringe] by the woman of your dreams? This kind of mental devastation will instantly kill any lesser man.

"That was harsh," Wang Wei muttered. "What were those two's reactions to her?"

"If I had to guess, Maitreya definitely studied her, but Supreme Unity might not dare, or he's cautious about it," Wu Hong replied.

"That makes sense," Wang Wei nodded. "His way of taking that step involved taking over Heavenly Dao, which is Grand Dao's property. I'm surprised that the technique was not labeled as taboo. If he starts to involve himself in perfection, Grand Dao might interfere directly and eliminate him."

"His technique is a small taboo," Wu Hong admitted.

"It is?"

"The aftermath of the Second Origin War was called the Ultimate Taboo because Qiyuan summoned all transcendent methods that have existed through time and space before condensing it into a trial. However, many of these methods were considered banned or minor taboos by Grand Dao's standards."

"That makes sense," Wang Wei nodded. He once deduced that Grand Dao wanted people to achieve higher levels, but they had to stay within its created rules. "My Ancestor's plan sounds brilliant on the surface, but I can foresee how many things could go wrong in that trial."

"Oh, you have no idea," Wu Hong sighed. "In that place, time overlapped. The past, present, and future exist simultaneously. Grand Dao interfered greatly—it was probably the most active it had ever been since ancient times. Finally, I'm pretty sure some terrifying existence showed up." Wu Hong could not tell for sure as everyone had lost a significant part of their memories."

Wang Wei's eyes shone brightly. He could imagine how wonderful such a grand event was. "Wait, I once deduced that my ancestor, Battle Maniac, was affected by some time shenanigan. There is also the fact that an entire era in the Eternal Ascension World was missing. Does any of those relate to the Ultimate Taboo?"

A look of disgust appeared on Wu Hong's face. Wang Wei has never seen her make that facial expression before.

"That damn Curse Master," she said with gritted teeth.

"Wow! Such strong hatred."

Wu Hong sighed. "I met this Paragon not long after entering the taboo realm in the Empyrean Realm. We fought and were tied, but I stole an essential treasure from the secret trial. Since then, that woman has hated me with a passion.

"She dedicated all her time and effort to create a nasty curse called the [Curse of Time Origin]. Right after I broke through the Paragon Realm, she attacked me, and we had a fierce fight. She lured me into the River of Time, and as I was about to win, she released it."

Hatred flashed in Wu Hong's eyes.

"The curse released a terrifying temporal storm that targeted my origin — the Myriad Emperor World."

"No way," Wang Wei was shocked. Such a thing was taboo as no one should interfere with the lower dimension. That woman must be crazy.

"That's not even the worst part," Wu Hong continued. "The curse made it so I bore all the causality; in other words, Heavenly Dao would blame me for what had happened."

Wang Wei sucked his teeth. "So, what did you do?"

"I did the next best thing," Wu Hong sighed. "I sent the time storm to a future time point. After all, if the past me dies, I'll also die."

"Ruthless," Wang Wei commented. However, he would have done the same. "What happened afterward?"

"I killed her as quickly as possible before preventing the storm from continuing too much damage," Wu Hong sighed. "I tried to revert things, but it was too late. That era was gone entirely. The best I could do was ensure no contradiction between my era and the next."

Wang Wei nodded as he understood. Some people in the Myriad Emperor World have lived since before the Devil Era. As such, they should have detected some anomaly about an entire era missing. However, there was nothing. Everything looked regular and perfectly continuous.

Wang Wei sighed. He knew Paragons were on another level, but events like this put it into perspective.

"So, how did you face Heavenly Dao's wrath?"

"With merit and oath," Wu Hong replied. "I had to borrow plenty of merit to offset my crime by a certain margin and to get Heavenly Dao to listen to me before judging me. Then, I swore to create the best defense system for the Eternal Ascension World. I only fulfilled that oath after I became a Primal Paragon."

When she thought about how much time she had spent being indebted to Heaven and Earth, with her luck almost ruined, Wu Hong gritted her teeth in anger and hatred.

"Why did that woman hate you so much? It doesn't make sense to do all of this just because of losing to someone of a lower realm," Wang Wei said. The Curse Master would never have survived this ordeal intact as Heavenly Dao would also judge her.

"In fact, your ordeal reminded me of my Supreme Outlaw Trial," Wang Wei continued. "It sounds like someone was manipulating events to either kill you or make you indebted."

"I'm 80% convinced Heavenly Dao did it on purpose," Wu Hong sneered.

"Oh? Why?"

"Have you never wondered why our world did not suffer much given the grand scale of the Second Origin War?" Wu Hong.

"Now that you mention it," Wang Wei frowned. "With so many Chaos Worlds and factions involved, I'm sure the center of the war would have been our world. So, we survive because of your defense system?"

"That's right," Wu Hong sneered. "That thing probably predicted that event and schemed against me to create that system."

"Without becoming transcendent, all sentient beings are dogs and ants before Heavenly Dao. Even Paragons are a slightly bigger nuisance," Wang Wei sighed. "So, have you prepared your revenge?"

"Yes, not just against it, but its boss," Wu Hong sneered. Although all these years spent creating that system was an excellent training experience, she hated how much she was used.

"That's my girl," Wang Wei chuckled.

"Who's your girl?" she stared at him.

"Don't sweat the small stuff," Wang Wei replied casually. "So, what was that era like? What happened to the Emperors who ascended? Did any of them become Paragon?"

"It was a terrible era," Wu Hong explained. "The resentments, hatred, and Fiendish Qi of me killing so many devils flooded into the Myriad Emperor World, making it extremely easy for people to develop Heart Demon and become crazy. It also did not help that all the cultivators were full of hatred, wishing nothing more than to kill as many devils as possible."

"Historians called it the Dark Mind Era," Wu Hong explained. In some ways, it may have been a good thing that that era was erased.

"As for what happened to the ascendants? Heavenly Dao just erased them to reduce the trouble," Wu Hong explained. "And no, there were no Paragons."

Wang Wei wanted to slap himself for asking such a stupid question. She said she had just become a Paragon, and from what I know about her, she was probably one of the youngest in recorded history. If Wu Hong had just become a paragon, how could the people who came after him become a Paragon? So, unless more time shenanigans were involved, that would be impossible.

Chapter 1267 The Banquet's Second Part

"So, do you know what happened to Battle Maniac?" Wang Wei continued. Wu Hong had answered only one part of his previous question.

"I don't know much about what happened to him," Wu Hong replied. "I know it had nothing to do with the Ultimate Taboo but an inheritance Qiyuan received from someone called the Trinity Venerable. He desperately wanted their three brothers and sisters to receive that inheritance, so he found a way to summon Battle Maniac to the past.

"Something went wrong, and Battle Maniac was the one who suffered as his Eternal Path achievement was rewritten."

Wang Wei nodded. "But how did he do it?"

"Summon people to the past? He made a deal with the Time Cardinal for the first time, and the latter gave him a Time Exemption Token, allowing him to mess with time to a certain degree with no consequences."

Wang Wei was surprised. "He went so far? What kind of inheritance did that Trinity Venerable leave?"

Wu Hong shrugged. Even though she was close with Yan Hai, she never mentioned that inheritance.

"You mention a second time; it should be when he summoned the Rainbow Emperor and the others."

"That's right," Wu Hong nodded. She then paused and looked at him strangely.

"What?" Wang Wei was puzzled.

"For the second time, he used what he learned from the token to create a formation that used his [Origin Dao]. From what I know, he wanted to summon the original 12 Emperors of the Dao Opening Sect from across time and space. However, the formation failed when it was time to summon the 10th one."

"But I'm the tenth Emperor," Wang Wei said.

"That's right," Wu Hong nodded. "But I haven't sensed any summons?"

"I don't know what to tell you," Wu Hong continued. "No matter what Qiyuan did, he could not get past you, so he had to give up. However, they knew there would be something special about you since that day."

"Everything is connected somehow," Wang Wei sighed. "Why do you think the summon failed?"

"It's possible that your destiny was too strong, and you resisted the summon," Wu Hong replied. "However, I'm more inclined to believe that Grand Dao knew your presence would affect the world too much if you travel through time and stop the process."

"That is indeed wise of it," Wang Wei sneered. He knew he would worsen the situation if he could participate in the Second Origin War. "Wait, I was planning on asking the ancestor if he could use any means to send me to the past. Does that mean this path is not feasible?"

"Probably not," Wu Hong replied. "Dao Overlords like yourself are natural troublemakers, so Grand Dao will place more limits on you."

Wang Wei wanted to curse. "But why do you want to travel to the past?"

"I realized that I'm lacking in age and experience when dealing with old monsters like yourself. So, I figured I would go to the past and use that time to develop."

"Who are you calling old?" Wu Hong rolled her eyes. "However, I do understand since I face a similar situation." She had unparalleled talent and was confident in defeating anyone. However, problems arise when she meets people with the same talent as her or very close to her who have lived for a very long time.

"So, how did you deal with that problem?"

"At first, I sealed and removed those old people's experiences to learn from," Wu Hong explained. "However, that did not help as much as I wished, so I searched Primordial Chaos for an answer and found the Universe Imprint Trial, which contains the imprint of all Paragons that have ever existed in the Chaos Universe.

"I spent countless yuan epochs fighting them and learning from them. It was also beneficial that time passes much faster inside the trial than outside."

Wang Wei's eyes shined: "Can you get me in?"

"No, but I know that place is Battle Maniac's favorite place, so he has multiple entrance tokens. Get it from him."

Wang Wei smiled in relief. As long as his ancestors have a way, he should have no problem getting in. Although he hasn't completely given up the idea of traveling through time, this was a backup in case he failed.

Wang Wei was about to say something when he sensed something. He raised his hand to take out a talisman from the void. 'A communication talisman from the sect?' He knew they would not contact him unless something significant occurred. He sank his divine sense into the talisman and received the information.

'Xun Junyao...Summoning Ritual...Mortalhood Trial...This must be Xiao Tiandi's work. Does he want to catch up to me?' Wang Wei shook his head. "Have you heard of the Mortalhood Trial?"

"Yes," Wu Hong nodded. "I once found a token for it, but I was already a Paragon, so it was useless," Wang Wei was not surprised by these words, but simultaneously, he wondered why this woman seems more lucky than him — someone who is favored by fate.

"Why are you suddenly asking about this?" Wang Wei explained the information in the talisman.

"That's quite the clever plan, and it might work," Wu Hong praised.

"Do you still have the token?"

"No, I exchanged it with someone else," Wu Hong replied.

"That's a shame." Wang Wei would not hesitate to take advantage of this situation and use this trial in advance.

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First Floor:

Xun Junyao praised the woman's wonderful poem about her beauty and nobility. The poem itself was wonderfully written, but she had heard so much praise of her beauty that it was hard for her to care. It also did not help that 99% of the poems, songs, and calligraphy displayed in this celebration were about beauty. As such, Xun Junyao showed more enthusiasm to the 1% who tried a different topic.

'I was hoping he would participate in this event. Unfortunately,' Xun Junyao sighed as she looked at Wang Wei's booth through the corner of her eyes. Many people on the second floor came down to show up in front of her or did it from the second floor, but that booth remained motionless.

'Since he has no plans of acting, let's move things along,' Xun Junyao thought.

"Fellow Daoists," she uttered, instantly quieting down the lively atmosphere by drawing, no, demanding, the utmost attention.

"This is the end for this art appreciation section." Everyone was surprised as this event had just started, and only more than 20% of the people went on stage. The people wanted to complain. This was their only chance to show themselves before their Goddess, but now it ended? However, since the Goddess herself ended the session, they have no right to complain.

"Thank you to everyone who participated. It meant a lot to me," Xun Junyao said with a more pure smile. Her action removed all these people's resentment and bottled emotions in seconds.

"The next section will be Dao Preaching," Xun Junyao continued. Everyone will have 1000 years to preach, starting with Tier 10 cultivators," She waved her hand to summon a blue incense stick for everyone in the celebration.

"This is the Heavenly Beauty Incense," she continued. "When used in tandem with the formations in the palace, the effect is no weaker than a peak Tier 11 Bodhi Tree. Now, we will start with Immortal Venerable Six Swords."

'Since you don't want to participate, I'll make you,' Xun Junyao thought. By understanding what kind of Dao this fated lover cultivates and how deep his understanding is, she can peep at what kind of person he is.

"Thank you, Lady Xun, for giving me this opportunity," said Immortal Venerable Six Swords, who was a handsome middle-aged man with the sharp temperament of a swordsman.

"Fellow Daoist, please give me thought on my Six Sword Technique, created after absorbing six unique Qi: The Four Pole Qi, the Heaven and Earth Qi, the Supreme Yin-Yang Qi, the Profound Yellow Qi, the Life and Death Qi, and the True Self Qi. Let's start with the four poles..."

Second Floor:

Wang Wei finally paid full attention to this celebration. Although he did not care about these people who resemble peacocks trying to show their beautiful feathers to attract a mate, he cared about the Dao Preaching, which can benefit him.

"This Six Sword is very lucky and talented," Wang Wei commented. It was one thing to find six unique Qi and another to fuse them perfectly. Additionally, he seems to have created a fantastic sword technique.

"He's from the Qi Core Race, so that's expected," Wu Hong replied. Wang Wei took a moment to remember this race, and he remembered that they were created in an attempt to recreate the Celestial Race's talent for Qi. Although the Qi Core paled compared to the Celestial Race, some of their talented members rival the latter.

'Let's see if I can recruit him after this is all done,' Wang Wei thought before closing his eyes and listening to the sermon.

Chapter 1268 Future Husband and Wife Compete

Wang Wei listened attentively to Immortal Venerable Six Sword's sermon, and once the 1000 years ended, he opened his eyes, having been inspired to create a few decent sword attacks. He noticed his future wife had also woken up, and her eyes were similar to his.

"Hmm? Can this low-level sermon have any effect on you?" he asked. He figured that, with her cultivation level, such a sermon would be child play for her. Maybe she was inspired to create something, but after living for so long, he believed she had already explored all possibilities of her Dao.

"Don't you understand why my Sealing Dao is so potent?" Wu Hong asked.

"Knowledge," Wang Wei answered without hesitation.

"That's right. As such, I never stopped learning, no matter who the individual is," Wu Hong explained. "Throughout my life, I've sent countless clones to infiltrate events like this so I can amass vast knowledge." Why could she seal almost everything? That's because she knew nearly everything, and to reach that level, she spent a lot of time gathering knowledge from everywhere and all kinds of people — no matter how weak they were. One of her primary motives in participating in the Second Origin War and being so active was to use the chaos and gather knowledge from everywhere throughout the Chaos Universe.

"Our Wang clan's daughter-in-law is a scholar? I'm sure the ancestor would see this as a blessing considering all of us are a group of rough men," Wang Wei chuckled. Wu Hong had to physically pause after hearing these words. Then, she gazed at him:

"Getting a little too comfortable, aren't we?"

"You're absolutely right, and I sincerely apologize," Wang Wei said with a straight face and body language that indicated as such.

'This bastard,' Wu Hong thought. She resisted the urge to slap him into oblivion as she could tell he was the opposite of sincere. Then, she displayed a charming smile. Such an act should have made Wang Wei reach cloud nine, but deep fear rushed into his soul instead.

"I'm suddenly worried about your safety and future," Wu Hong said, keeping that lovely smile. "How about this? For my peace of mind, I'll train you after this event. Yes, only with my training can I feel reassured that nothing will happen to you when you face these people."

'Oh, common on, woman,' Wang Wei thought. 'It's written all over your face that you want to use this opportunity to beat me up. This is abuse. This is a crime of a wife abusing her husband.' Sadly, he did not dare say these words out loud.

"Is this necessary?"

"What do you think?" Wu Hong replied her smile still as angelic as ever.

"Fine," Wang Wei accepted his fate. He knew she would beat him, but she'd also train him, and there was no better teacher than her.

"I know I should never have trusted in that bastard, Fate," Wang Wei muttered under his breath. "It lured me with the promise of a beautiful, talented, and strong wife, but without telling me the consequences. All my life, I've been suppressed by this woman. Alright. Fine. But one day, I'll surpass her and have my revenge."

After uttering these words, Wang Wei felt his spirit condensing slightly as he formed a second semi-obsession. Meanwhile, Wu Hong, next to him, obviously heard his mumble with her cultivation.

'Keep dreaming,' Wu Hong thought. However, she felt the pressure. With how she was stuck before the gate that is transcendent, she knew, with his talent, it was only a matter of time before this bastard's strength reached the same level as hers and even surpassed it since his foundation would be better than her because achievements like Ten Supremacy Foundation, the title of Mortal Emperor, and more importantly, the Perfect Foundation and becoming an Immeasurable Emperor. And that's not mentioning how he achieved the Taboo Realm in all three realms while she only did it in two. All these things may seem insignificant now, but they will become essential factors in how

strong someone is in the Primal Paragon, and Wu Hong theorized they are even more critical once someone enters Half-Step Transcendence.

'No, I can't let this bastard surpass me,' she thought. Wu Hong could foresee how embarrassing it would be once that happened, and she knew he meant every word about making her pay.

'Should I just enter the Dark Truth and practice the Perfection Foundation? He did it, and he's perfectly fine?' She could not decide now but was leaning toward just doing it.

'Let's not make a decision now, but there are other steps I can take," she analyzed. 'The main goal is to become Half-Step Transcendent before him — that is a must. The secondary goal is to improve my foundation.' Countless thoughts flashed into her mind.

'It's impossible to make up for the Emperor Taboo Realm since the price is not worth it,' Wu Hong analyzed. According to her years of study and analysis, a kind of transformation will occur after becoming a Half-Step Transcendent based on a person's achievement in the Taboo Realms. As such, if a cultivator wishes to benefit from it, they must do it at the appropriate realm. Wu Hong would have to reincarnate and start over to get the benefit of the Emperor Realm.

Such a price was not worth it since she did not know for sure what the benefit was. After becoming a transcendent, she hopes to make up for it in another way.

'I can acquire the Ten Supremity Foundation by experiencing Foundation Re-establishment, but in my realm, it is extremely dangerous — even for someone like me,' Wu Hong thought. 'However, I can increase my chances of success and decrease the mortality rate by training someone who achieves that foundation, sealing it, and taking it for my use.'

This plan is feasible, with the only downside being that she must find someone talented enough for the job. However, such a small problem was nothing to her; she could use resources to change someone into such a talent or even use her Grandmist Wheel to create someone. Additionally, Wu Hong understood that talent was not the primary requirement for achieving the Ten Supremacy Foundation. Her training will be critical as she must ensure that the chosen individual has enough luck/destiny, wisdom, Dao Heart, resources, and willpower.

'Ten Supremacy is still doable, but Immeasurable Emperor is something else,' Wu Hong frowned. That was an achievement instead of a foundation. As such, if she wanted to receive its blessing, it was not as simple as cultivating someone and then taking it from them.

When she met Wang Wei at the hot spring, she peeped at his past and saw everything he experienced in the lower dimension in order to get a non-bias understanding of his personality. As such, she knew that the critical factors to becoming an Immeasurable Emperor were to have a deep enough understanding of the Dao in the mortal realm and a Dao Heart and Willpower strong enough to create a path directly to the Grand Dao Source.

Wu Hong knew that she could train such a person as long as she invested enough time and resources. However, that would not help since absorbing them is not enough to get the true blessing of the Immeasurable Emperor Achievements. Instead, she would need to change her past, making it seem like she had achieved it.

'However, that path is not feasible,' Wu Hong thought. Anything relating to messing with time is already complex enough, but that's not even the main reason this approach would not work. Wang Wei was the first Immeasurable Emperor of the Chaos Universe. If Wu Hong changed her past to acquire that achievement, she would be rewriting the history of the entire Chaos Universe. The backlash from such an act would instantly wipe her from existence.

'An alternate approach would be to create a Causality-Free Clone, send it to reincarnation, and absorb it once it becomes an Immeasurable Emperor. However, that is another problem on its own,' Wu Hong groaned.

Due to their rarity, the methods of creating causality-free clones are among the most valuable things in the Chaos Universe. People desperately search for them, as this is the only way to make up for past regrets without having to start over.

It is the only widespread way to grant a second attempt at the Eternal Path without reincarnating and starting over. As such, Emperors, Emyreans, and Paragons, who failed to become Eternals, Everlasting, and Boundless, desperately wish to create a casualty-free clone.

Wu Hong squinted her eyes. She knew that the rarity of this method was not even the biggest problem. These clones are one of the biggest pits in the universe. Causality-free clones are one of the ways these higher beings manipulate people since it's easier to corrupt the clones and have them rebel against their creators.

'Unless, as a last resort, I don't want to use this method,' Wu Hong contemplated.

Chapter 1269 The Other Foundations

While dividing her mind into two to continue listening to the sermon, Wu Hong continued to deduce a better way to achieve the status of Immeasurable Emperor. In less than a second, her mind calculated a trillion possibilities, deducing countless ways for her plan. However, she did not like the solutions she came up with until the last one.

'This method is feasible, but it takes too long.' Her main issue was she did not have much time for that bastard to catch up to her, so it would be pointless to delay even more with a method that takes so long.

Wu Hong frowned until an idea flashed: 'How about I ask him?' She narrowed her eyes. It will reveal much about him depending on what he answers. So, she waited until the person after Immortal Venerable Six Swords finished their sermon to ask Wang Wei. She told him everything, including her deduction of the importance of the foundation at the Half-Step Transcendent Realm.

Meanwhile, Wang Wei looked at her with his mouth agape. He took a deep breath to calm down: "Let me see if I get this correctly: you were inspired to improve your foundation to prevent me from beating you, no, rightfully get my revenge. But now, you're asking me how to prevent fulfilling my lifelong dream?"

"How you summarize the situation makes it much more dramatic than it actually is."

"But it is this dramatic," Wang Wei said. "In my life, there is only one opponent I've never beaten, and it's you. And you expect me to help you continue beating me?" He did not hide his frustration, pain, and suffering.

"You're such a drama king," Wu Hong rolled her eyes. "So, what idea do you have?"

Wang Wei grunted as he caressed his temple. 'She definitely spied on me somehow. Should I bring it up? Forget it. There is no point in fighting for something like that.'

"Well, you can't use the causality-free clone — that's obviously a big pit." Wu Hong did not mention the downside of this method in detail, but Wang Wei could see it. He could deduce how many suckers suffered under this method.

A few of them probably thought they were clever and tried to use reincarnation to better hide their clone by giving them a recognized identity. However, that is another suicide move. They might be

lucky if they successfully hide that clone from the Yama Kings, but if they do not, then they are screwed.

If any of these bastards have ever offended the Yama King or even gained their hostility for any reason, they can kiss that clone goodbye. And even if the Yama Kings don't do anything to it personally, they can just secretly release the news to the enemies of the original owner.

But that's not the worst of it. Even if they could hide it from the Yama Kings, could they hide it from the Samsara Cardinal? So, sending a causality-free clone through reincarnation is like sending your weakness to a higher being.

"However, as bad as the causality-free clone is to people like us, it's a great method to create pawns at a higher level," Wang Wei commented. If he were on the level of the Cardinals, he would spread these clones everywhere as pawns to do his bidding.

"Indeed," Wu Hong agreed. At that level, it's probably way easier to make those clones. More importantly, the backlash from them getting out of control probably serves no significant threat. They can probably use these clones to lure people into trying to create backlash for them.

"You still haven't answered my question," Wu Hong continued.

"Your best bet is to leave the primordial timeline," Wang Wei answered. "There won't be much as much backlash, and if you can find a timeline where I haven't become an Immeasurable Emperor, then you'll be set."

"The Myriad Origin Realms — why didn't I think of that," Wu Hong muttered. The Myriad Origin Realm, also known as the Infinite Trichiliocosm, was a place of endless wonders, and the rules were indeed less restricted, making it an excellent place for Wu Hong's work.

Wang Wei was not surprised she did not think about it. He had noticed the Paragons in the primordial timeline were isolationist, mostly ignoring the endless wonders and benefits of the multiverse. He doesn't know whether this results from a sense of superiority for being in the primordial timeline or because Grand Dao has secretly been doing things in the shadows or something else, but it is there.

"Thank you for your help," Wu Hong said brightly. Such an answer might appear small, but she knew how important it was. Throughout her long life, Wang Wei was not the first man who caught

her attention. A few suitors have aroused her attention, but they all failed for one reason or another. The primary fault is that they usually envy her strength and talent.

These people wanted to bring her down instead of climbing to the same level as her. They didn't want an equal partner — they wanted a submissive wife. Specifically, they wanted to turn Wu Hong — with all her prestige, power, and glory — into a submissive wife.

"No problem," Wang Wei said as he closed his eyes. 'No, I cannot let this go on. I refused to be a Wife Dominated Emperor for my entire life. I must be on top once in my life by my own strength. Let's see: since she can improve her foundation, I can do it too. Where to begin?

'Since there is the Ten Supremacy Foundation, why can't there be things like Eleven Limit Foundation, Twelve Complete Foundation, and Thirteen Transcendent Foundation?'

[AN: I'm semi-satisfied with these names, but if you have better suggestions, I'm open to them.]

Numerous inspirations flashed into Wang Wei's mind.

'It's ridiculous to expect a mortal to have the strength of an Empyrean or Paragon. However, they can have Second, First, and Eternal Tier strengths. And the number seems to match perfectly.'

Ten Supremacy corresponded to the Third-Class Emperor, and Thirteen Transcendent Foundation correlated to the Eternal Emperor.

'Yes. I can follow her path of training someone with the Thirteen Transcendent Foundation, then re-establish my foundation, and seal and absorb their power to reduce the risk,' Wang Wei planned. He drooled thinking about the day she thought she was invincible, and he showed up with his newfound strength.

"I just thought of something, help me deduce it," Wang Wei said with a gentle smile. However, Wu Hong did not like that cocky smile, feeling something was about to happen. Her intuition was correct. After hearing Wang Wei's plan for new foundations, the only thing left in her mind was: 'This damn bastard!'

"What do you think?"

"It's feasible." She had to squeeze these words out of her mouth. It was already a time-sensitive issue for her to make up for those other foundations, but now there were more. It did not help that with the Mortalhood Trial, this bastard would enter the Paragon Realm too soon for her liking.

"Hehehe," Wang Wei chuckled. "Accept your fate of being dominated. Soon, you'll know what it's like to be in my shoes."

"You're too arrogant too quickly," Wu Hong snorted coldly. "Foundation is not everything as it represents more potential. There are many ways in this vast universe to make up the gap of strength."

"Whatever helps you sleep at night," Wang Wei sneered. "Now, can you help me deduce if there are any potential problems with my idea?"

Wu Hong snorted coldly before closing her eyes and deducing. A few hundred years into the sermon, she opened her eyes, her complexion not looking good.

"What happened?" Wang Wei asked after noticing she had woken up.

"It's not as simple as you had imagined," Wu Hong stated. "You cannot just skip to the so-called Thirteen Transcendent Foundation. Instead, you must experience Dao Foundation Re-Establishment for each, and the difficulty will rise with each one, along with the chances of experiencing true death."

"Given how Grand Dao operates, I should have expected this," Wang Wei nodded. The risk would not stop him. "But why is your face like this? This news is not enough to rattle you — unless..." the smirk on his face was evident, and Wu Hong wanted to slap him.

She was annoyed because she would have to waste even more time now. Previously, she thought she could skip the Ten Supremacy Foundation and go directly to thirteen, but now, she knew this was impossible. In other words, she would have to waste even more time catching up.

'Should I focus on becoming a transcendent while he's reinforcing his foundation? No, that would be putting the cart before the wool.' According to her deductions, these foundations will bring immense benefits to the next realm, especially by combining the Thirteen Transcendent Foundation and the Perfection Foundation.

If she's correct, once they enter the realm with such a solid foundation, they'll be able to defeat at least ten people on the level of Maitreya and Supreme Unity, who used flawed methods, and five people who used flawless methods. And that's not counting the benefit of the Battle Taboo Realm.

Chapter 1270 Interruption

'Maybe I should take time to create or find some devastating secret techniques that increase battle strength,' Wu Hong thought. Secret techniques are common in the cultivation world as they are usually ways for cultivators to drastically increase their strength by paying a price. They are typically used in desperate situations, and the most common methods are burning the blood, body, and soul to increase power.

Secret techniques become more important at the pinnacle of the Paragon Realm because they are the most widespread method of acquiring the title of Primal. Of course, people who become Primal through secret methods are at the bottom of the list. After all, you'll become weak after using this technique since you must pay a price, leaving yourself.

Wu Hong smiled wryly, knowing this method would not work. If she became weak after defeating him with a secret technique, wouldn't that leave her open to being bullied? Could it be that she had to immediately run and hide every time she beat him?

'I must heal my injuries to the point of returning to the Paragon Realm. Then, I'll enter the Dark Truth, and during the establishment of the Perfect Foundation, I can better heal myself when rewriting my [Existence].'

She had made up her mind. At this point, hesitating and delaying would only make the situation worse for her. Wu Hong suddenly felt a lot more relaxed after making that decision.

'It's been a while since I've been so motivated to improve. The feeling is not bad,' Wu Hong nodded. 'More importantly, I cannot let this bastard ride over me.' She smiled, feeling more confident than ever. Who was she? Empress Wu. She never feared or backed down from a challenge and was not about to do that now — even for her future husband.

'Wait a minute,' Wu Hong thought. 'When did I start thinking of him so intimately? This bastard is so smooth. I fell for his scheme without even noticing.' She looked back at their two meetings, and she had to admit, they got along so naturally as if they were two sides of the same coin.

'It's a good thing that we can get along so naturally. The path ahead is long, and it would be a nightmare if our personalities did not match. However, I still need to look at things more rationally,'

Wu Hong thought. She took a moment to look at Wang Wei from a rational and objective point of view.

'We are compatible in our personalities, ambitions, and drives. He has the strength and talent to keep walking forward with me and be a support on this long journey of the Dao. He is not selfish and intimidated by my accomplishments and challenges me to be better than I believe I could be.

'Besides a few other minor things I need to check later on, there are only two main issues — trust and goals. So far, he's shown me that he's reliable and trustworthy, but enough to put my life in his hands?'

Wu Hong thought about this deeply. The fact that she's willing to enter the Dark Truth indicates a high level of trust, but she views it more as a calculated risk. She saw the benefits, spent many years deducing and calculating, and after meeting Wang Wei, she made the final push to it.

'In the lower dimension, Wang Wei entered the Dark Truth mostly based on the trust of that clone. But if our situation were reversed, could I so unquestioningly trust him?' Wu Hong asked, and she did not have to think long to know she would not. So, it's apparent that her trust in him is not that level, and she reckoned he does not trust her as much as he does that clone.

'That's fine. We can slowly get to know each other and increase our trust,' Wu Hong thought. Trust can be cultivated over time, so there is no need to make a big deal out of this issue for now. Of course, it will be something else if they cannot cultivate their trust to a certain level after years of trying. At that point, she hopes they can part amicably.

'Finally, it's the issue of goals,' Wu Hong continued. Wang Wei is obsessed with achieving absolute freedom, and she has her goals that she would not give up for anything. For people at their level of Dao Heart, it's impossible to give up their grand pursuit of the Dao for something that is both fleeting and eternal as love.

Here comes the issue: what should they do if their pursuit/goal clashes with their relationship? Should they give up their dream and focus on the relationship? Should one person sacrifice for the other? Or should they go their separate ways? Even worse, what if they have no choice but to become enemies?

As previously stated, with Wu Hong and Wang Wei's Dao Heart, they can't give up their goals, let alone sacrifice them for each other. So, they must come up with an agreement on how that would proceed.

'He previously had this conversation with that clone, but we must have it again,' Wu Hong thought. She always felt that the clone was a little too in love or too emotional, which is fair if she comes from the future and has known him for far longer. As such, that conversation was too easy by her standards.

These types of conversations are the kind that make or break a relationship. They can establish the foundation for a partnership that lasts for eternity, so there must be a much higher level of rationality than the clone used.

'It's good that we have a clear plan to proceed to the next stage of our relationship,' Wu Hong thought. She had certain expectations but kept them under control to avoid being too disappointed when they were not met. As she said to him before, she looked forward to him bringing more color to her slightly dull life, but she was also happy with continuing with how things were.

Wu Hong closed her eyes to focus on the sermon. Time passed, and the two did not speak much, with a few words in between. All the Tier 10 swiftly finished their sermon, and it was soon the turn of Tier 11. Six preached, but something occurred when Xun Junyao was about to choose the seventh. She paused with a deep frown, making people wonder what had happened.

'So close. Why couldn't he have waited?' Xun Junyao thought. She was about to choose Wang Wei's booth for the following sermon, but she received a message from one of her ladies that the special guest refused to wait any longer and demanded she see him.

Xun Junyao was not happy. She planned to learn what kind of person that fated love was through the sermon, and in the third part of the celebration, she would propose they play a game of Civilization Chess and choose three people to be her opponent, and Wang Wei would be the third. Now, everything was ruined.

'Why did I expect any better from these people?' Xun Junyao thought as she regained her composure.

"My deepest apologies, Fellow Daoists, but I must leave early."

"What?" People did not hide their shock and confusion.

"It's only temporary, but something urgent has come up," Xun Junyao explained. "Once I return, I promise to sing a wonderful piece for all of you as an apology."

"Lady Xun, there is no need to apologize. We understand."

"Yes, take all the time you need."

"It is your celebration, and we are guests, so we don't mind waiting."

These degenerates were happy. The last time any public record of Lady Xun's voice was recorded was when someone accidentally recorded a small part and sold it at an unknown auction. An Empyrean literally sold his sect to get it, turning over all lands, treasures, and resources, and even the disciples and elders became slaves. The terrifying part is this price was low due to the fact it was too late when the news spread.

"I'm glad you can all be so understanding, but I will keep my word." Xun Junyao said. "In the meantime, enjoy a dance from our palace's most talented lady."

She slowly left the stadium, giving these people one last gift. Once she was out of sight, the announcer — a beautiful middle-aged woman with a strict, no-nonsense appearance — awaited her.

"Is everything alright?" Xun Junyao asked.

"So far, we have found no issue."

"Very well," she nodded before heading to a secret room of the palace.

"Palace Lord, do you maybe want to change clothes?" the announcer reminded Xun Junyao, making her pause and look at her clothes.

'That would indeed make the guest feel more special,' she thought, and with a snap of her finger, her dress changed to a more casual, intimate, red and black. She also changed her hairstyle to be semi-formal.

"That's perfect. Let's go."

Second Floor:

Wang Wei squinted his eyes after seeing Xun Junyao's departure.

'Are things about to start, or is this just a small prelude?' He wanted to see what Xun Junyao was doing, but this palace was a potent treasure, and the formations were not a joke, rendering his powers useless.