

F.D Emperor 1341

Chapter 1341 Quick & Aggressive Move

Time Eater sat on a throne, calmly listening to his subordinate explain everything that had occurred since he left for the frontier. Although he knew about the most significant news, he was meticulous about this type of thing, so he wanted to know everything to ensure he did not miss anything crucial. He would ask questions once in a while once he heard a topic he thought was important.

He suddenly stopped and raised his head. The room was immediately silenced, especially after Time Eater stood up with a frown. The people stopped breathing to ensure they did not bother the lord.

'What's going on? Why am I feeling uneasy?' Time Eater thought. He immediately trusted his instinct that something was about to happen, but he could not fathom what. 'Is someone going to attack me? If so, who?'

He recalled his enemies and first thought about Yan Hai and Wu Hong. So, he used a technique to check on the people he placed around their factions. Of course, he did not expect to notice their disappearance with these low-level soldiers.

Time Eater was a master of Time Dao, and that's how he tracked his opponent. Through the soldiers, he used a technique that tracked residual time fluctuation around the entire Origin Seal Continent and the Dao Opening Sect. This residual fluctuation is difficult to detect unless these two already knew he was doing it, making it easier for him to track them.

'Nothing?' Time Eater thought. His technique did not track any individual directly but checked how much the surrounding space-time continuum in these locations has changed. Yan Hai and Wu Hong are extremely powerful, meaning their presence significantly influences the surrounding space-time continuum. So, if any of them had left, there would be signs.

'Wait, there is a significant change from the last time I checked. This level of effect — Wang Wei. Did he leave? Is he the one coming to attack me? But how did he get the courage?'

As soon as these thoughts appeared, Time Eater removed them. He would not underestimate any Dao Overlords, especially one with enough time to prepare to eliminate their opponent.

'I must prepare to respond.'

Boom!

Time Eater's face changed. He disappeared from his palace and teleported outside. He looked in the distance and discovered four pillars in the heavens releasing golden lights. "The Resentment Purification Pillars? Kong, are you a part of this?" Time Eater immediately noticed four people at each pillar, including Emperor Kong.

He identified these four people, and with one glance, he knew what they had in common — Golden Bodies of Merit. His face changed as he thought of something, so he rushed to stop them. Sadly, he was too late as the Four Pillars released a barrier surrounding the palace.

'So that's your plan,' Time Eater said gloomily. 'Seal me so I can stay out of the way while you eliminate the other useless bastards. Wang Wei, this is far from over.' Time Eater took a deep breath to calm down. The situation was severe, and he needed to act swiftly.

He looked at this seal formed by four [Sages], trying to find a weak spot. His eyes suddenly lit. 'Three of them have a second-level body, while the last one only has a first-level. I can exploit such a flaw in this seal.' Time Eater did not waste time as he immediately rushed to the Pure Flame Sage's pillar and started attacking.

'So, he found it after all,' Wang Wei thought. He knew the slight flaw of this seal, but he did not expect Time Eater to find it so quickly. 'You're really not a simple bastard, are you?' Wang Wei deployed his golden body to finish the sealing process as fast as possible, and the others followed. The barriers around the palace shrunk at a speed visible to the naked eye, trying to capture Time Eater. However, Wang Wei, or the others, were not happy.

'This won't work,' Emperor Kong said. 'I tried my best to reduce the flaw of this seal, but he caught it so quickly. With his strength, he might be able to delay long enough to find a way to destroy it.'

'Should we move to the next step? However, it might not work after the lock,' Sage Lin Qi said. Everyone was quiet. Time Eater became aggressive with each passing second; meanwhile, the barrier seal slowly closed in, but the speed was reducing with time.

'Hold on for a little while. I have a plan,' Wang Wei said. He was telling the truth, but, as always, only the partial truth. He had anticipated this outcome, so he prepared for it. However, he did not immediately act for two reasons: firstly, this was a perfect opportunity to gather data about Time Eater's fighting prowess, and secondly, he wanted to observe Sage Pure Flame.

His part was indeed the weak link of the array/seal, but Wang Wei wanted to ensure the latter was not suspicious by not doing his job correctly. Wang Wei kept observing him, prepared to slap him to death at the slightest signs of rebellion.

'It seems I may be overthinking,' Wang Wei concluded after a few minutes of observations. 'In that case, let's move to the next step.' He sent a signal, and immediately afterward, three people appeared next to the Pure Sage Flame, shocking the latter and ready to attack or defend himself. However, he was soon reassured after realizing these people were Buddhist Monks.

"Feng Heng, thank you for coming," Wang Wei said, looking at the leading monk.

"Donor, this poor monk is happy to help. After all, you are still the Honorary Buddha of our temple," Feng Heng replied.

"Well, this is not the time to chat, so let's get down to business."

Feng Heng nodded before releasing his peak first-level Golden Body of Merit and Empyrean Realm cultivation level. In the past 10,000 Yuan Epochs, Feng Heng used his savings from the lower dimension, the Buddhist Sect's resources, and all his merit and destiny to reach cultivation of 72% Grand Dao Source or the early stages of Empyrean. His golden body has almost reached the second level, and the next time he receives the reward for reviving Buddhism in the lower dimension, he should achieve a second level.

The other monks followed him, and they were also first-level Golden Body with Empyrean Realm cultivation, but they were all in the late or peak stages, similar to Wang Wei. With the addition of these three people reinforcing Sage Pure Flame, the seal's flaw was made up, thus changing the situation.

The barrier, which had previously stopped, immediately started shrinking again, forcing Time Eater to take drastic measures. He released all his powers to force the sealing process to stop temporarily. He gazed at Wang Wei: "I guess I should have expected such a move from you."

Time Eater had to admit that he had lost in their first confrontation. He acknowledged it but would not admit it was because he was not as intelligent as the latter. His defeat was the result of a lack of information and circumstances. He did not know as much about Wang Wei as he thought, and he did not have the time to plan or anticipate his opponent's next move while he was on the frontier.

Wang Wei did not pay him any mind. Instead, he focused on completing the seal. Time Eater turned to Emperor Kong: "Are you sure you want to do this? Wang Wei has the Dao Opening Sect as a safety net in case something goes wrong, but you — you'll lose everything you've built so far as long as you make one wrong move."

Emperor Kong remained quiet. Time Eater was telling the truth, but that was not enough for him to get in bed with him. The chances of making the wrong move drastically increased by being on Time Eater's side rather than being his enemy. The situation looked hopeless, but Emperor Kong knew that his future was only guaranteed by betting on Heavenly Dao. If Supreme Unity wins, he does not want to think about what future awaits him or the Academy.

'Plus, as Xu Shi said, it's always a good thing to bet on Wang Wei's side,' Emperor Kong thought as he continued his actions to complete the seal.

Time Eater turned to Sage Lin Qi, but he did not even bother, leaving only the last group. He scrutinized the monks briefly before focusing on Sage Pure Flame.

"You have no bone in this fight, right?" Time Eater said. "You're probably here because these people promised you some benefits. Let me guess — merit? I think I'm right. However, in the current situation, the merit system is malfunctioning, to say the least, so what's the point of working so hard for nothing?"

Just like the others, Pure Flame remained quiet. However, no one knew whether it was because he was not tempted or out of fear that if he took action, the monks behind him would annihilate him with one strike.

Time Eater looked at Pure Flame before glancing at the others. His gaze then shifted to the outside. 'As expected, I cannot rely on these people.' He looked around, analyzing the situation.

'Is this my only option in this scenario?' He was unwilling to reveal one of his trump cards so early, but Time Eater knew he might not have a choice.

Time Eater waved his hand to summon a projection of the River of Time. He used it as a medium to release terrifying chaotic temporal storms, trying to break, or even stop, the seal. Sadly, his efforts were pointless. Wang Wei knew his Dao was Time, so how would he not prepare for such a possibility?

'There is no need to hesitate,' Time Eater reminded himself as he gazed at the seal, which was only a few meters in all dimensions. His body suddenly changed into a monstrosity. He completely filled the barrier in only a few seconds, but his body did not stop expanding. Everyone present watched as the small barrier expanded at an abnormal speed.

In a few seconds, it reached the size of Time Eater's castle, but soon, it spread to include most of the Central Time Realm, which was the core area of Time Eater's territory — the capital, to be specific. "Stop him," Wang Wei yelled. Everyone was shocked by this monster that Time Eater had turned into, thus distracting them. Luckily, Wang Wei reminded them, and they quickly reinforced the seal, preventing it from spreading. However, their resistance was enormous, and they barely stopped the seal from expanding beyond its capabilities and shattering.

"What is that thing?" Sage Pure Flame asked, looking at this enormously large creature whose body seemed made of stars, galaxies, and time itself. However, no one answered him since they did not know.

"It's a Time Beast," Wang Wei said, and everyone gazed at him.

"Powerful creatures born from unique environments," he explained. "For example, Void Beasts are born in the spaces between worlds, Source Qi Beasts are born from the Source Qi Space, and Time Beasts are born from the River of Time. However, they are extremely rare since the conditions of their births are harsh beyond reason."

Everybody nodded.

"So, does he have the bloodline of a Time Beast?" Emperor Kong asked.

"That's the problem — he's supposed to be human. There has been no record of him acquiring such a bloodline," Wang Wei replied with squinted eyes.

"He should have acquired it at some point," Emperor Kong analyzed. "But the fact he was able to hide it so well shows how scheming his mind is."

"No, this is not a human who has acquired a bloodline. He's a Time Beast," Feng Heng suddenly said. Everybody looked at him and saw a third golden eye on his forehead.

"What are you saying?"

"If this poor monk guessed correctly, he's no longer human," Feng Heng explained. "This donor has abandoned his human body and taken over a Time Beast's body. The previous appearance was just a well-crafted meat puppet."

"He's right," Wang Wei said. "The only thing human about him is his soul, but it also seems to have some characteristics of the Time Beast; most likely, he swallowed the latter's." Learning that Time Eater's genuine body was a Time Beast was a great revelation. Wang Wei knew he would have suffered had he tried to plan the latter's downfall without knowing this piece of information.

"It's good that we know more about our opponent, but this is not helping our current situation," Emperor Kong said.

"Kong's right. Let's proceed to the next step," Wang Wei announced. This may be the only way to seal Time Eater truly.

"But what if that doesn't work?" Sage Pure Flame suddenly asked.

"We'll use Backup C."

"Which is?" he asked in confusion, and he was not the only one. The plan only reached Backup B.

"You'll know when we get there," Wang Wei replied. Emperor Kong frowned before suddenly thinking of something. "I understand," he said, a hint of cruelty flashed in his eyes.

"Sacrifices are necessary in these times of great trouble," Sage Lin Qi nodded, acquiescing. Wang Wei looked at this old man, not thinking he was this sharp. However, it made sense. After all, Sage Lin Qi's actions must have offended many people. Even with the Golden Body of Merit, some people would dare scheme against him. After all, even if they cannot kill him, they can seal him. However, the old man remained alive and continued his work, which showed he was not simple.

"Let's get started," Wang Wei said, and everyone started to recite a few words:

"The world is in chaos. Destiny has been stolen and shackled. The world needs freedom, which cannot be achieved until the perpetrators are dealt with. In my name as a [Sage]. I, Wang Wei (insert name), shall seal this evildoer to give hope to Heaven and Earth."

There are many positions or titles between Heaven and Earth, many of which have certain [Authorities]. For example, the Earth Emperor has full access to the Underworld and can even request a direct meeting with one of the Yama Kings. The position of [Sage] also has certain authority or power, mainly to protect the world or guide it in a better direction. These seven people are mobilizing this [Authority] to seal Time Eater. Such an approach would have been quick and easy a few hours ago but after the lock? Their authority is a power granted by Heaven and Earth, or Heavenly Dao, to be directed. So, the issue now is whether they can still mobilize its power.

Wang Wei looked at the sky, waiting with bated breath. The others were immediately worried, but he and Emperor Kong — who both already cultivated their Paragon Souls — could detect a recognizable power trying to be mobilized from Heaven and Earth. However, it's also apparent that something else was intercepting it. Luckily, a golden light descended from the sky after a few seconds and turned into golden chains surrounding the barrier.

The seal was completed. However, Wang Wei frowned. The seal did not shrink but remained the size of Time Eater's humongous body. This difference might not appear much to others, but he knew the difference. The new seal included not only Time Eater but also the entire Central Time Realm, meaning the latter had access to manpower and resources for that whole Realm. This meant he could cultivate and even plan for his escape.

'He cannot directly interfere, but his strength can continue to improve, and he might even find a way to interfere from the shadow,' Wang Wei analyzed. The current situation was the definition of he won the battle but not the war. It was not that simple to deal with those capable Paragons. However, Wang Wei was glad he did not have to use Backup C, as that would mean actual loss.

'You made an excellent response to my move,' Wang Wei thought. 'But I'm still a few steps ahead.' He waved his hand to condense his destiny into a spear.

"Gentlemen, if you don't mind, may I borrow your destiny?"

Everyone looked at him, not hiding their puzzlement. Emperor Kong remembered the information he gathered about that party and did not hesitate to add his destiny to the spear. Sage Lin Qi was also confused but followed suit after seeing Emperor Kong's actions.

Feng Heng did not say anything else and just lent his destiny. The monks who followed him copied him without asking for an explanation. After his outstanding merit in the lower dimensions, Feng Heng had an extremely high status in Buddhism, and everyone knew he'd probably be Mother Maitreya's next disciple.

Sage Pure Flame was the last one to instill his destiny. After seeing everyone do it, he knew refusing was a bad idea. Additionally, he had sensed that Sage Wang Wei was weary of him. His intuition told him if he refused, he might be able to leave this place alive, but he would not live long.

Wang Wei calmly took the [Spear of Destiny] with one hand, and with the other, he used a Luck Dao Spell. A roar echoed between Heaven and Earth, followed by the manifestation of an enormous dragon that covered Time Eater's territory. The dragon covered not only the Central Time Realm but all the territory, including countless other realms, worlds, universes, dimensions, etc.

"Wang Wei, you bastard," the Time Beast roared. He knew what was going to happen. As expected, Wang Wei threw the spear, trying to destroy Time Eater's Qi Luck Dragon, just like he did to Five Feathers.

'I can't let this happen,' Time Eater thought. Under normal circumstances, he did not care much about this luck now that his plan was close to completion. However, it was an entirely different matter now that he was sealed. He looked at the dragon and knew it would not last long. After all, the spear was created with the attribute of destroying Qi Luck Dragon; it also did not help that the destiny used to create it originated from [Sages].

Time Eater clawed his own heart to draw this gray and misty blood that exuded the power of time. He drew a magic circle in the air before putting his blood at the center:

[The Art of Sacrifice]

The Dao of Sacrifice is one of the universe's most versatile and powerful Dao. As long as you have enough knowledge/accomplishment in the field, you can gain anything — with the proper sacrifice. Time Beast's blood is extremely valuable, even more so for the Blood Essence from their heart. Time Eater bypassed the seal with this sacrifice and temporarily controlled the Qi Luck Dragon.

Chapter 1343 Wins & Losses

Under Time Eater's control, the dragon resisted the spear's power. After a few clashes, it became apparent that the spear would eventually lose before the effect of Time Eater's sacrifice ended. Everyone looked at Wang Wei, indicating for him to make his next move. Otherwise, they should think of a solution together.

Wang Wei did not disappoint them. He pointed his fingers to condense numerous karmic lines that rushed to different points throughout the Eternal Ascension World. Emperor Kong frowned because he was the first to realize to whom these lines connected — the people from Xun Junyao's party.

'The ancients were wise when they warned not to mess with a Karma Master,' Emperor Kong complained. Cultivators with high attainment in Karma Dao are a pain to deal with. After meeting them only once, they can create a karmic connection between them. With those connections, a master can do many things — including spying, controlling, stealing, etc.

Wang Wei was only in the same room as these people, and he could form karma links between him and them. With these threads, Wang Wei summoned a projection from the River of Time of Xun Junyao's [Spear of Destiny].

An illusory spear slowly condensed before him, but Wang Wei soon frowned. He detected many people trying to resist, so he snorted coldly to send them a warning. Numerous people worldwide suddenly spewed a large mouthful of blood.

Wang Wei sneered as he continued his actions. If these people could activate Paragon Formations in their locations, they might be able to stop him. However, with his current strength, they would have never detected that he was borrowing their destiny if not for his being in a hurry.

He calmly looked at the spear. His original thought was to borrow these people's destiny to bless his destiny spear. However, Wang Wei's instinct told him there might be some form of interference. So, he used his Time Dao and the River of Time to achieve a similar effect.

He waved his hand, and the imaginary spear fused with the genuine one. The Qi Luck Dragon roared in agony, followed by an intense killing gaze. Wang Wei followed the source and saw Time Eater's humongous eyes. "Why don't you keep sacrificing?" he taunted. "With such a big body, you should have plenty of blood."

Time Eater quietly looked at him. 'Is he trying to trick me into weakening myself, or is this a bluff?' There is a chance that Wang Wei has no more moves, and if he pays the price, he may be able to

save that Qi Luck Dragon. However, Time Eater was unsure, and more importantly, he did not want to take the risk.

'Damn it,' he cursed. 'It's been so long, and there has been such a large movement, but none of these people have come to help.' After a brief pause, Time Eater decided to accept this loss, especially since he knew things would not end so quickly. Some people wanted to save this Qi Luck Dragon more than him.

Wang Wei glanced at him before focusing on the battle. 'The other parasites did not show up, which was one of my predictions. But I also predicted that Supreme Unity would directly order them to act. It seems that Maitreya is not as useless as I thought.' Of course, this was the bare minimum he required from her. However, after recent events, Wang Wei's mindset has changed to always expect the worst from his teammate.

[Roar!]

The Dragon could not hold any longer and was dispersed. However, was that the end of things? Far from it. A black and white light descended from the sky, heading directly for this dispersed luck of Time Eater's territory. Wang Wei saw such a sight before, and he knew what would happen next. 'It seems this time he's not only saving the smallest portion but directly reverting the dragon to its original state,' Wang Wei thought as he watched the black and white beam.

"Amitabha," Feng Heng suddenly said. Activate." Buddhist chants suddenly echoed between Heaven and Earth, followed by countless Buddha statues worldwide, suddenly releasing a golden light to confront the black-and-white light.

Wang Wei was surprised, followed by ecstasy. 'I see. Maitreya has been locked out of the world but still has some influences. She can use a medium to channel her power and interfere.' This was good news for Wang Wei as that meant he had more choices/options available to him when dealing with Supreme Unity's madness.

The confrontation between these two superpowers lasted for a few minutes, and Maitreya won. Supreme Unity did not succeed in saving the Qi Luck Dragon — or so everybody thought. Before anyone could celebrate, five Qi Luck Dragons of varying sizes appeared between Heaven and Earth, and they released a multicolored orb from their mouths that instantly recondensed the Qi Luck Dragon. Of course, this newly condensed luck dragon was the smallest, even tinier than Five Feather's luck. Regardless, it was condensed.

"What should we do now?"

Wang Wei frowned. "Let's leave. It's no longer safe." He had accomplished his primary objectives. As for the other losses? They were acceptable for now. So, Wang Wei took one last glance at these five dragons and sneered before disappearing.

Everyone returned to the secret locations they had already designated. As soon as they arrived, Sage Pure Flame said his goodbyes to everybody and left. Wang Wei still thanked him sincerely, even though he had already planned for someone to monitor him. After he left, no one mentioned Pure Flame's weird behavior.

Instead, Wang Wei had a conversation with Feng Heng and Sage Lin Qi. He introduced the latter to Mortal Civilization and Mortal Art Dao, asking him to cooperate and work together to spread these concepts.

"This is a wonderful idea," Sage Lin Qi said, not hiding his excitement. For many years, he has lamented how weak mortals were and thought of every way to improve their lives. But he never thought of improving their strength, especially to the point of competing with cultivators.

"This poor monk has always planned to spread these concepts, but I wanted to wait for your permission," Feng Heng said. Buddhis's territory was the second largest in the world, only slightly inferior to Taoism, meaning their mortal population was astronomical. Feng Heng knew the merit he could receive by spreading these concepts, but he chose to remain respectful until Wang Wei brought it up.

"I'm glad to hear it," Wang Wei nodded. "If my guess is correct, mortals will need a way to defend themselves, not to mention the merit involved."

"Can we even get merit in the current situation?" Emperor Kong asked.

"I'm not sure," Wang Wei shook his head. "However, even if we don't, it will only be delayed until we become the victor in this war. By then, Heavenly Dao will reward us ten times for our effort and loyalty."

Everybody caught on that their benefit was contingent on their winning, but no one mentioned it. They've already made their choices, and with people of their willpower, they won't easily switch sides.

"Can the academy participate?" Emperor Kong asked.

"Do you have the means?" Wang Wei asked back, and Emperor Kong smiled wryly. Indeed, their academy was now the enemy of the parasites, meaning it was time for them to hide underground. In the process, they must also abandon many of their branches, let alone their territory.

"No need to be depressed," Wang Wei said. Kong should have been prepared for this outcome, so there was no point in complaining or regretting. The moment he chose to work with these parasites to accelerate the academy's growth, today's events were bound to happen as long as he was unwilling to remain these people's dogs or leave a name of infamy throughout history.

"We still have a feast to participate in. Although it's not as good as the Blood Dragon, it's plenty for the three of us to divide." Buddhism did not need this, so they were not participating.

Wang Wei discussed with these two how to spread these two concepts. Meanwhile, his people, the Academy, and Sage Lin Qi's people had already started the feast. They attacked all the resource points/halls in Time Eater's territory. The battle was fierce but swift. After all, most of that territory's elite warriors were located in the Central Time Realm, except for the people Time Eater previously sent to Origin Seal Continent and Dao Opening Sect. Unfortunately, after seeing what happened to these people's bosses, these former Overlord factions showed their bold sides and sent people to wipe out these elites.

Ultimately, these resource points did not survive long without reinforcements. Their only hope was the other parasites, but Wang Wei knew these people's psychology too well. As long as he hid in the shadows and did not show up, none dared to share pieces of the pie openly. Recent events have shown that Wang Wei was a genuine threat, and these people did not want to be the next victim.

Of course, a few of them were slightly brave. The Earth Emperor did not show up, but after a while, he sent a few legions to plunder. After seeing his actions, the others also gained the courage to act. Unfortunately, most of the best places have been plundered by then.

Chapter 1344 Worst Case Scenario

Wang Wei did not wait to hear how much wealth he had plundered. After returning to the Dao Burial Ground, he immediately entered a cultivation retreat to heal his injuries. He's been suppressing his injuries for a while now since time was urgent, but now, he finally could no longer hold on.

As soon as he sat down, he swallowed numerous pills before using the healing technique he created after purveying his future wife's library — [Time Phoenix Nirvana Art]. A white and black flame enveloped his body, releasing an enormous amount of life and death energy that entered his [Existence] and healed the underlying problems.

Once the life and death energy reached a certain level, they formed a Yin-Yang Symbol that controls the time concept of forward and backward. Then, Wang Wei's body was slowly reverting to the time before his [Existence] was affected. Ordinary injuries can be instantly reverted with this method. In fact, Wang Wei's natural regeneration was so terrifying that he did not even need any Dao or techniques to heal.

However, it was different for Dao Injuries or even more severe [Existence] injuries. Wang Wei frowned as he watched how slow the process was: 'At this rate, I won't be back to peak state even after 500,000 Yuan Epochs.'

Such a number was small. Wu Hong and Yan Hai were injured before the Seven Moon Eras but still haven't recuperated. In comparison, Wang Wei's injury was minor. Unfortunately, he could not wait so long.

'The following One Yuan Epoch will be crucial. If I'm not present to stop Supreme Unity, Heaven knows what the world will be like by the time I recuperate.'

Wang Wei sighed. He absorbed the merit he previously received, trying to accelerate his recovery speed. He then calculated his recovery time. The merit worked, reducing his time to 33,000 Yuan Epochs. 'Still too long,' Wang Wei thought. Countless thoughts flashed in his eyes. He needed a method to heal in just a few thousand years, possibly a few hundred.

Wang Wei immediately outlined countless methods, but with each method, he became more frustrated. 'There is no perfect solution.' He must pay a serious price if he wants to heal in such a short period. He waved his hand to summon his Golden Body of Merit.

'If I sacrifice some of it, I should recuperate in a few decades. However, this golden body will no longer be a peak second tier. It will take a long time to recuperate.'

Wang Wei gritted his teeth. Besides, when he fought with Di Tian, he had never "suffered" so much in his life. Reducing the effect of the golden body for a short recovery was an excellent price, but

Wang Wei felt it was too much. He hated more than losing his things; he could accept defeat in battle but not lose in stuff like this.

'Supreme Unity, I'll remember this. One day, I'll make you pay,' Wang Wei thought with gritted teeth. 'Wait — paying a price?' He slapped his forehead, thinking how stupid he'd been. 'Could the previous small setbacks affect me? How can I not think of such a simple thing?'

Wang Wei focused and started. Someone must pay a price for his recovery, but he did not have to be the one to pay it. A simple approach would be to share the price by the Wang Clan through bloodline. As long as everyone shares, the price or backlash won't be much. However, Wang Wei would not do this since he had a better option — let his enemy pay. He is a master of Karma, and that's one of the things he's good at.

Wang Wei waved his hands to build a rune in the air. He focused intently on creating a new technique that combined Time Dao, Karma Dao, and the Way of Sacrifice. He took his time to modify each rune, and after an unknown amount of time, the runes combined together into a magic circle that released intense green light.

The magic circle then turned into a projection of the River of Time. The power of time washed over Wang Wei's body, and his complexion returned to normal. In a matter of seconds, this terrifying injury was healed. However, were things so simple? Of course not. The River of Time's projection suddenly collapsed before transfiguring into a clock that rushed into Wang Wei's body. He removed the upper part of his robe to check his chest. As expected, he had a new tattoo of a clock that was slowly counting down. At the end of this clock was a picture of a skull.

"33,333 years— it's lower than I expected," Wang Wei uttered. That's how long he has to repay his debt for suddenly healing, or he experiences true death. Moreover, the repayment cannot be random — it must be something valuable.

"It doesn't matter. It's more than enough time," Wang Wei said as he looked in the distance. A Paragon's Soul should be more than enough to pay the price for his actions. He walked out of the room and checked how much time had passed.

'525 years,' he thought. His healing process was instant as soon as his [Borrowed Time Technique] was created. However, the process of the creation took over 2500 years inside the Time Formation. He immediately summoned the team.

Mongke was the first to arrive, and his complexion was as rosy as a rose. His aura was peaceful, and as Wang Wei expected, his strength reached the peak of 90%.

"It seems your injuries were not as severe as I thought," Wang Wei said.

"I was lucky," Mongke nodded. His injuries almost reached the level of [Existence]. He did not know whether it was because he had just entered the Battle Taboo Realm, so Heaven and Earth protected him, or was it just the manifestation of his luck. Regardless, he was lucky.

"I envy you," Wang Wei sighed. Mongke looked at him in puzzlement. If his injuries were so severe, why did he look perfectly alright? He shook his head. He did not think too long about it since he couldn't figure it out. Soon, everybody arrived.

"Tell me what happened?"

"The situation is as you predicted," Wang Qi said, making Wang Wei's heart skip a beat. "It can even be said to be worse."

"The mortals?"

"Yes," Wang Qi nodded before explaining everything. "The cultivators panicked after realizing their lifespan cannot increase without increasing their realm. At first, everybody started to compete for longevity and immortal pills. The prices of these pills soon reached an astronomical number in just the first two decades."

Wang Qi was not exaggerating. He once participated in an auction in which an Emperor bought a pill that increased lifespan by 10,000 years for five Emperor Artifacts. That's how outrageous the prices became.

"Then, rumors started circulating at an alarming rate that people could increase their lifespan by absorbing mortals' flesh, blood, and souls. No one took this news seriously, especially since we, along with the hidden lineages, intervened and spread false information to blur out this news.

"However, everything changed when the devil cultivators started killing mortals in large quantities. After that, it was impossible to hide the truth."

Wang Wei grunted: "What about the sect's alliance?"

"Our sect, along with many hidden lineages — including Buddhism and the Barbarian Clan — announced the creation of the Mortal Protection Force. They publicly denounced any such act and even killed anyone discovered participating in such behavior."

"From your tone, I'm guessing something went wrong?" Wang Wei asked.

"This world is too large," Wang Qi commented. "At first, they were indeed a deterrent. However, things took an unexpected turn. Someone created this hiding technique that can even escape from a peak of Empyrean's Divine Sense."

"Additionally, we've discovered that methods like divination, Yin-Yang Calculation, and Karma Detection no longer work for those people who participate in those massacres."

Wang Wei wanted to roll his eyes. Supreme Unity was not even trying to hide its purpose anymore. "What's the overall situation?"

"There are only a few territories where mortals are protected. Moreover, not all of the top hidden lineages have joined. Some people are indifferent and just watching, and some people are using this opportunity to cause more chaos."

"What about the parasites? How do they treat the mortals in their territories?"

"Besides the Earth Emperor, who prevents anyone from touching his citizens, the others don't care. Some even partake in it."

"What about the Mortal Civilization?" Five hundred years was more than enough time to show some progress. However, Wang Qi shook his head.

"We've spread it in our territories, but these parasites and other cultivators have intervened to block our actions once we try to globalize the process."

"The Enlightening Temple?"

"Even worse," Wang Qi said. "Only a [Sage] can build the temple, and the reach is limited to a certain area."

"He's really cut off all our paths, hasn't he?" Wang Wei sneered. "I asked you to build the Dream World. I guess that didn't work as well?"

"As soon as it appeared, it was blasted by lightning bolts."

Wang Wei sighed. He looked at his group. "All of you have known this situation for a while. Any suggestions?"

Chapter 1345 Terrible Solutions

"The situation is way worse than stated," Mongke commented. "The merit system has been locked despite Buddhism's efforts."

Wang Wei raised his eyes and looked at the sky. He could detect the slight fluctuations that indicate a struggle. Heavenly Dao wants to reward them for spreading the Mortal Civilization, but something is stopping it.

'Well, fighting is better than no response at all,' Wang Wei thought. Heavenly Dao was silent when the lock first appeared, which scared him and indicated it had lost most of its authority. However, it is now constantly fighting, which is a sign of strength.

"What happened to my cultivation technique?" Wang Wei asked. He previously spread the Health Preservation Technique, baffling him as to why the situation turned so sour in such a short period.

"It has been corrupted," Dulgun said. She was in charge of this matter, so she knew the most.

"What do you mean?"

"Well, it started with the spreading process. As you can imagine, these parasites intervened to block it," Dulgun explained. "We sent one of the Paragon puppets to try to scare them, but they replied with their own puppets."

"Of course, all of these were not the main reason your attempt became ineffective."

"What did that bastard do again?" Wang Wei asked, not hiding his sneer.

"The rules of Heaven and Earth were changed," Dulgun explained. "All Longevity Techniques have become more difficult to cultivate. People can only breakthrough when they are in the twilight of their years, and each breakthrough can increase their lifespan by 10,000 years."

Wang Wei's face was ugly to look at. Now, if an ordinary person used his technique, they would have to wait until they are 9000 years old before they can make a breakthrough and extend their lifespan. Since this technique allows people to live one yuan epoch — 1.269 trillion years — the technique was essentially divided into billions of layers—no wonder no one wants to cultivate it.

Wang Wei clenched his fists. He was feeling frustrated. The current situation feels like he's playing chess with someone, but while he has to play by the rules, the opponent not only does not, but he can also invent the rules to turn things in his favor.

Wang Wei exhaled to calm down. Being overly emotional will not help in the current situation. On the contrary, it will probably increase his chances of making a great mistake.

"You guys still haven't told me what your ideas to solve the situation is," Wang Wei said. After knowing the overall situation, he has some plans in mind. However, he wanted to see if they had something better or, at the very least, could inspire him.

"In the current situation, we may have to consider killing all the world's cultivators and saving the mortals," Mongke said. Wang Wei did not comment and just listened.

"That is too extreme," Jia Ping disagreed.

"Is it?" Mongke asked. "Most of the cultivators participating in the slaughter are loose cultivators or weak lineages who do not have access to longevity pills. I think it's a good exchange to eliminate these wastes to save the mortals."

The Barbarian King's words might sound harsh, but everybody understood his logic. The mortals are the future of the cultivation world; they are the primary sources of talent, so protecting them is protecting the future of the cultivation world.

"Our opponent's wish is for us to weaken the world, so why would we help him?" Jia Ping argued.

"That is true, but we are living in extreme times, so sacrifices are necessary," Mongke continued. "My thought is we ignore everything else to focus on dealing with the parasites. We must seal or kill them as quickly as possible. Then, without their interference, we'll have plenty of time to control the cultivators and eliminate all of them."

"Your plan is too far-fetched. We're dealing with Paragons. Even if they are at the bottom of the barrel regarding talents, they are still Paragons," Jia Ping argued. "The next yuan epoch will be crucial. Do you expect us to deal with all of them in such a short window?"

"It's indeed tricky, but with the right kind of brilliant plan, I think we can get all of them in the same place and into a trap."

Wang Wei did not comment, but he wanted to roll his eyes. He could tell that Mongke had become a little prideful after entering the Battle Taboo Realm; otherwise, he wouldn't suggest something so extreme or stupid. No matter how bad these parasites are, how can they be dealt with easily or quickly? How can it be easy to get all of them in the same place?

Wang Wei had once thought of this. One of the plans he considered in dealing with them was to lure them into a trap dimension, and the bait would be knowledge and information about Half Step Transcendence. However, he soon realized that besides the Earth Emperor and the one from the Taoist Sect, none of these people were ambitious enough to take the bait. They only care about maintaining the status quo with them at the top. What is sad is that they don't want to do so by ensuring that they are as powerful as possible but by keeping everybody else weak.

"What is your solution?" Wang Wei finally asked.

"Sealing," Jia Ping responded. "We open more sealing resources to them and even develop cheaper and more accessible sealing methods. Most of these cultivators are acting out of desperation. If we can give them an opportunity to sleep and wait until this 'era' ends, they'll gladly accept it."

"That's a good idea," Mongke commented. "But there is still one problem — these parasites. They will not allow us to spread these means worldwide. As long as they keep interfering, all our actions are in vain."

Jia Ping did not rebut since he knew the latter was correct. However, he still believed this less radical approach was the best.

"What about you?" Wang Wei asked. "Do you have a different opinion?"

"I do," Dulgun nodded. "I think our focus should be outlasting these cultivators. We only need to protect as many mortals as possible, and in a yuan epoch, most of them will die."

Wang Wei did not say anything and looked at everybody else. However, no one had other solutions, so he was left with thoughts. These people's solutions are good, but they are only superficial. Wang Wei wanted to save the mortals and cultivators and completely ruin Supreme Unity's plan, meaning none of their approaches were feasible.

He closed his eyes to activate his Soul Network Ability. He saw all the members of the Fate Changing Hall, but that was the extent of his network. He could no longer access other souls. 'That bastard truly blocked all my paths.'

Wang Wei opened his eyes while frowning. 'Right now, my main move should be to give the mortals the power to protect themselves, and that means spreading the Mortal Civilizations. However, the issue is how to spread it throughout this vast land as soon as possible?'

Once the mortals can protect themselves, the cultivators will be restrained. In the worst-case scenario, a civil war will happen, which may not be a bad thing since war is one way to facilitate the development of civilizations. With the improvement of the Mortal Civilization through war, the reward Wang Wei will receive after this event will be even higher.

Of course, that is, if the mortals can last long enough. Under normal circumstances, that would be impossible. But now, with the support of other cultivators, they have a chance.

"Alright, I know what to do," Wang Wei said. He looked at Mongke: "Prepare for an all-out battle."

"I understand," Mongke nodded in excitement. Wang Wei dismissed everybody except for Red Mask.

"What's Pure Flame's situation?"

"We haven't been able to infiltrate his cultivation dojo, but from the information we've gathered and analyzed about him, the conclusion is that he kept that black power and is studying it."

"Oh?"

"The analysis is that he plans to take advantage of the current situation to spread this thing and purify it to gain merit," Red Mask continued. "His talent can only take him as far as the Empyrean Realm, and merit is his only way forward."

A killing intent flashed in Wang Wei's eyes. "How sure are you?"

"80%."

Wang Wei squinted: "If what you say is true, he probably won't act anytime soon since the merit system is still in limbo. He might be waiting for me, or someone else, to fix it to a certain level before he starts to act."

Red Mask nodded. That's the same conclusion the Fate Guard made. "Sir, do you want me to eliminate him?" Although they have only suspected Sage Pure Flame and did not have concrete evidence, they were not officials. Suspicions were enough to eliminate someone as long as they were a threat.

"You're really bold," Wang Wei said, looking at him. This woman dares talk about killing a Sage. There is a saying in the world: "Only a Sage can kill a Sage." The backlash is not something that anyone can bear, and even Sages cannot kill each other without proper reasons.

"As long as you ordered it," Red Mask said calmly.

"No need. He's still extremely valuable," Wang Wei said.

Chapter 1346 The Solution

After dismissing everybody, Wang Wei did not immediately leave. He had many things to do, but he needed to do things step by step. So he stayed for a few hours to review the detailed information gathered by the guard during his absence. He knew about the world's current situation through the team's meeting, but that was not enough; he needed to understand the nitty gritty.

Wang Wei put away the Information Talisman and frowned. "As long as Supreme Unity has any form of autonomy, I can't even deal with these parasites." He had many plans to deal with these people, but as long as that bastard was present, the chances of success were minor.

'My ultimate goal is to remove his ability to make any moves on the board,' Wang Wei thought. He refined the plan he came up with before contacting a few people. Wang Wei headed to another isolated dimension, and a few minutes later, the other Sages arrived — except for Pure Flame.

Wang Wei immediately noticed Feng Heng's arrival. Firstly, he expected the other Buddhist Sages to be with him, but he was alone. Second, his aura was slightly different from before.

"Second level Golden Body?" Wang Wei asked.

"Donor has sharp senses as always," Feng Heng replied.

"But how is that possible? The rewards from the lower dimensions should still take some time — unless..." Everyone looked at Feng Heng.

"This world still has hope," Feng Heng explained, his face and demeanor calm and peaceful. "Heavenly Dao has rewarded this poor monk for benefitting mortals' way of life."

"Really? Good, good, good," Wang Wei said, not hiding his excitement. Although Feng Heng was the only one among them who received merit for the Mortal Civilization, he and the others did not care. Instead, they value that the system is still working, which indicates that Heavenly Dao is still fighting and that their battle is not utterly hopeless.

"This is indeed excellent news," Sage Lin Qi said.

"If you think about it carefully, he might be the only choice to receive the merit," Emperor Kong suddenly said. Wang Wei's eyes lit up after hearing this. Kong was correct. Feng Heng became a medium for Maitreya to channel her power in the world, so Heavenly Dao took this opportunity to find allies.

"Feng Heng, by any chance, can you contact the Mother Buddha?" Wang Wei asked.

"Donor, I'm afraid you'll be disappointed."

Wang Wei sighed: "It's fine." He did not have much expectations. "Alright, let's get to business. I call you here to ask for help. Normally, I don't ask without reciprocation, but you guys understand the current situation." Since the lock, many things that were once extremely valuable are no longer sought after. Even merit can no longer be acquired.

People could no longer cultivate, meaning these resources were less tempting to anyone. As for hoarding these resources for the future, no one knows whether the world has a future; even if it does, no one can predict how terrible it will be.

"There is no need to mention such a thing during dire times," Sage Lin Qi said. He did not want anything except to expand his work, and the best way to proceed with it was for the world to return to normal and to have someone of sufficient power and background helping. Wang Wei was from the Dao Opening Sect, and if the latter was willing to give him some help, he could do so much more. If Sage Lin Qi could think in a more utilitarian manner, having Wang Wei's goodwill and even owning him a favor was way more valuable than any reward.

Feng Heng and Emperor Kong nodded. However, their mindsets were completely different. The former honestly did not care about rewards. After accomplishing his grand merit in the lower dimension, Feng Heng's state of mind sublimated; he no longer cared about the quarrels and disputes of the cultivation world. His only desire is to understand the Dharma and seek enlightenment. Everything he does is follow his heart and achieve that goal.

Meanwhile, Emperor Kong was the one who wanted a reward the most. After all, Feng Heng was from Buddhism, meaning he was rich, and Sage Lin Qi was a man of [Pure Heart], making his thinking less utilitarian. However, he had an academy to look after and people to feed. Of course, he was wise and understood the need to build good relations and connections. However, if it were up to him, he would love to have a reward and make connections.

"I'll keep today's events in my heart," Wang Wei said. He waved his hand to hand them a talisman. "Consider this as a gift." Everyone checked the content and was surprised by this Heaven Deception Array — this was indeed a gift, especially in these times of perils.

'I understand his charm,' Emperor Kong thought. He understood what made Wang Wei so attractive. The latter is indeed cunning and will play with you as a toy if it's in his interest, but if you are his allies and are willing to work for him, he will not shy away from giving you benefits. Emperor Kong thought of all the things he could do with this array. There were many, but the most important one was to hide. Since his betrayal, the parasites have been searching for him relentlessly. Countless

branches have been attacked and destroyed. Now, he finally had a way to hide without worry perfectly.

'No, this is an opportunity,' Emperor Kong thought. Once he can hide and project himself, he can send his people to recruit talented mortals worldwide. Although these people could not cultivate, he could seal them and wait for a later date. 'The current situation was perfect to recruit talents.'

Sage Lin Qi calmly accepted this gift. With this array, he can protect many more mortals, and his people can better act behind the scenes. The greatest trouble his association often faced was how the rulers of certain territories refused to help or even hinder his work. This array can help him deal with this problem.

Feng Heng squinted his eyes. He knew this formation from the lower dimension and even paid the Heavenly Court to install one for him in the Buddhist Sect. Unfortunately, he had to sign a contract and agreed never to study it.

'Such formation should be valuable to the Mother Buddha,' he thought. According to his analysis, Buddhism or Taoism did not have such a formation, and there can only be one explanation: the two suns balanced each other to prevent the others from getting it. But now, he had an opportunity to share it with his side. 'Let's try after returning.' Feng Heng learned the formation and put it away. He glanced at Wang Wei and suddenly had a realization. The latter probably did this purposely to acquire Buddhism's support in his battle to remove the lock.

"Read It? Good. I need you to summon your [Sage Authority] once again to engrave this array into me."

This was Wang Wei's objective — to hide himself better. After his retreat, he realized he might have to re-enter the paranoid state he was in during his Outlaw Trial. Supreme Unity was too powerful, and Wang Wei worried that his every move was under the latter's watch. So, he needed a way to move without being detected.

"No problem," Emperor Kong responded. The process was smooth and easy. Although Wang Wei said he wanted them to engrave it on his body, this was not exactly correct since the thing was already engraved. He has been using it since he ascended to prevent people from finding him. The Sage's role was only to use their authority to bless the already existing formation and raise it to another level.

Everybody proceeded relatively smoothly, with the only problem being the resistance of mobilizing the Sage's Authority. Luckily, Heavenly Dao seems to have regained some strength, so the resistance was not as strong as before.

'It should have no problem, right?' Wang Wei thought. His future wife raised the Array to the peak of the Paragon Tier. With this boost and Heavenly Dao's protection, hiding from Supreme Unity should not be an issue — especially if he still has to focus on his battle with Maitreya.

Wang Wei sighed, not satisfied with the uncertainty. He no longer hesitated and secretly returned to the Origin Seal Continent to see his ancestor.

"You're back, "Yan Hai said. "Did something happen?"

Wang Wei did not immediately answer. Instead, he spread his Heaven Deception Array throughout the room before putting thousands of sealing arrays.

"Is this necessary?" Yan Hai asked.

"Maybe, maybe not, but we can never be too careful."

She shook her head and did not say anything else. She knew smart people were too easily become paranoid. He has seen Brother Qiyuan in this state countless times, many of which have saved their lives.

"Why are you here?" she asked.

"Ancestor, do you need to know where the seal for the Void Illusion World is?"

"Hmm? Why do you need to know this?"

"Because it may be the solution to my current problem."

Chapter 1347 All The Preparations

"You want to spread the Mortal Civilization through the Void Illusion Realm?" Yan Hai asked. Wang Wei was shocked after hearing her words, looking at up and down. Yan Hai's lips twitched

before she summoned a bamboo and waved it at him. Wang Wei tried to dodge, but to his surprise, the bamboo hit him on his head, and the thing hurt like hell.

"Do you think I'm stupid?" Yan Hai asked. Many people thought she was all muscle and no brain, so she had seen these kinds of looks before. "Ancestor, I apologize," Wang Wei quickly said. He could not help it. Yan Hai seems to have a temperament that makes people underestimate her intelligence. Yan Hai snorted coldly.

"What's that bamboo?" Wang Wei asked. He had a feeling that no matter what he did, he would not be able to dodge it.

"Ancestral Discipline Stick," Yan Hai said with a sneer. "I made especially for disobedient descendants like you. As long as you have the blood of the Yan, Li, and Yan Clan flowing through your blood, you can't escape its punishment."

Wang Wei was shocked by these words but shook his head. This was Yan Hai's temperament, so he should not be surprised she made such a thing. Most of the cruel ways the Dao Opening Sect raised disciples and geniuses are rules she created and left.

"You don't seem convinced."

"No, I didn't say anything," Wang Wei swiftly said.

"It's written in your face that you can find a way to avoid. Unfortunately for you, until you become a Primal Paragon and gain the title of [Ancestor], you can never escape."

"Never?" Wang Wei asked, focusing on the absoluteness of her words.

"Never," Yan Hai reiterated.

"Then, isn't this thing dangerous?"

"Don't worry. It can discipline but never kill," Yan Hai explained. "In the past, some stupid people paid a heavy price to get their hands on it, thinking they could use it to control or eliminate our family. Unfortunately for them, this thing can only be used by the four of us, and it cannot kill any of our bloodlines."

"I see," Wang Wei said, feeling relief. Although he will have to be careful with his words around the ancestors for now, at least he does not have to worry about a weapon that is the weakness of his bloodline.

"Let's get back to the topic," Wang Wei said.

"I know where the seal is, but it won't matter even if you get your hands on it."

Wang Wei knew what she meant. According to records, the Void Illusion Realm did not allow mortals to enter. "Is there a way?" Wang Wei did not read too much about this subject in the library since this was not his main focus. As such, he had to ask. Yan Hai frowned and pondered. Wang Wei waited, but after a few minutes with no answer, he realized he may have to search the library.

"I remember now," Yan Hai suddenly said. "Long ago, even before the Endless Tribulation Era, the Ancestor of the Ma Family created the Void Illusion Realm. You may be able to gain some control or authority over it and change the rules to allow mortals to enter."

"The Ma Family?" Wang Wei said with a frown. "Why have I never heard of them?" He reviewed his memories of all the Paragon Lineages he knew but had never heard of such a family.

"You probably think their family is some kind of top lineage, but you're wrong," Yan Hai said. "The Ma Clan has already ruined the luck their ancestors provided them, and Heavenly Dao no longer protects them. It's a miracle they still exist today."

Wang Wei nodded. "Can the Ma Clan's bloodline grant me the authority over the Void Illusion Realm?"

"Of course not," Yan Hai replied. "If that were possible, their clan would have been extinct by now."

"True," Wang Wei said as he realized what a stupid thing he said. If these people had that power, the top lineages would have captured and raised them like pigs to gain control over the Void Illusion Realm. Wang Wei motioned for his ancestor to keep talking.

"Their clan should have a Luck Condensing Artifact. Under normal circumstances, this should not be enough to influence that realm, but we're living in unprecedented times. I'm sure you can make use of it."

"Indeed," Wang Wei nodded. "Where are they?"

"That, I don't know," Yan Hai answered. "They have been hiding since this era started."

"Then, how am I supposed to find them?"

"That's your business," Yan Hai replied nonchalantly, making Wang Wei groan. Divination was unreliable, and it might not have been possible to rely on directly gathering information. Even if it were, it may not work, not to mention how long that may take.

"Do you have a token or something that is connected to the Void Illusion Realm? Or maybe a password," Wang Wei asked. These items were enough for a Karma Master such as himself to find something.

"The password is [Lord of Infinite Illusion]," Yan Hai said. "In the past, you only need to close your eyes and repeat these words to enter."

Wang Wei sighed. He guessed these would have to do. He thought a moment to ponder deeply, refining his plans once again. "Ancestor, do you have to use one strike at your peak?" he asked.

"Why are you asking?"

"I need a way to break the seal instantly."

"I see," Yan Hai nodded before opening her treasury dimensions. "I remember I still had one left. Oh, here it is." She summoned a talisman and handed it to him. "This talisman contained my highest sword attack. It should work."

"Ancestor, why do you have such a thing?"

"What is it to you?"

"I'm just curious," Wang Wei replied. He only condenses these things as gifts or defensive measures to give to others. Most people are like this.

"My Sword Dao has high attack potency, but it also requires accumulation and build-up. So, I often store my highest potency attack in talismans to use in battle, usually for emergencies," Yan Hai explained before sighing. "These things saved my life. Otherwise, I would also be in Limbo."

"I see," Wang Wei nodded. "Well, thank you, ancestor." He bowed politely to show his respect.

"No problem, and don't forget to show more respect to your elders," Yan Hai said, waving her bamboo stick. Wang Wei's lips twitched. He could already predict how many of the lower dimension's Emperors had suffered under that stick, and he did not want to be one of them.

"I will," Wang Wei nodded stiffly. "One more thing. I need your help with something else." Wang Wei explained his plan, making Yan Hai sighed. "I just got back in shape, and now you...*sigh*. I'm old. Can you give these rusty bones a break?"

'What is this? Being too invested in a role?' Wang Wei controlled himself not to roll his eyes. He did not expect his ancestors to have such a quirk.

"Well, what do you have to say?"

Wang Wei noticed how weird her eyes were, and he realized if he said something wrong, she might use this as an excuse to hit him again with that stick.

"Ancestors, you know us younglings have to rely on your help and wisdom," Wang Wei quickly said.

Yan Hai looked at him and smiled: "This ancestor like descendants with sweet mouths." She then waved his hand to leave. Wang Wei walked out of the room with a gentle smile on his face. He has never been so relaxed ever since that damn lock appeared.

He teleported away, but his destination was not the seal or the Ma Clan. He returned home to check on Mongke's preparations before visiting the Lawless Zone. He chatted with Old Man Dai, but they

soon had an argument and fought. Of course, now that Wang Wei had more experience in the Ways of Paragons, the old man was not his match, so he left that place having fulfilled his goal.

His next goal was to meet Xun Junyao. It took a month before he could contact the latter and meet at a rendezvous point. They talked for a few hours before Wang Wei left to revisit Emperor Kong. They had one more chat before starting his work.

Beyond his sight, Wang Wei saw a mysterious gray fog. He looked at it, not hiding the complex emotions brewing in his mind. He shook his head to concentrate before condensing a karmaless clone and sending it to the fog. However, the clone did not reach its destination before an unknown power annihilated it.

'As expected,' Wang Wei sighed. Supreme Unity blocked the path to the Dark Truth. He left a barrier at the entrance, preventing people from entering or leaving. Wang Wei was not surprised by this move. Wu Hong was one of his greatest reliance in the Cultivation World. Heavenly Dao sealed her during his Outlaw Trial, and Supreme Unity made the same move.

He teleported away to the Ma Clan

Chapter 1348 The First Flaw

Wang Wei teleported to a unique area called the Non-Causality Heaven. As the name implies, it is a place where karma and causality are in chaos. It's one of the best hiding areas in the world, along with the Lawless Zone. Wang Wei looked at this place that appeared only red in his vision. 'This place is worthy of being called the heaven and hell of karma masters,' Wang Wei thought. In his eyes, this place was composed entirely of karma threads, making it the best place to cultivate Karma Dao. However, it's also the worst place to try to use Karma Dao — if you're not skilled.

Wang Wei searched the area with his terrifying soul, trying to find the best place for his following action. He soon discovered a towering mountain the size of a planet and teleported to the top. He frowned because someone was already there but could not find it.

'Another Karma Master? And that aura — he's a Dao Lord,' Wang Wei, immediately raising his guard. However, the other person behaved strangely. He looked at Wang Wei briefly before continuing to do his thing. The man was not on guard, and the surroundings had no array of techniques. On top of everything else, this person's body and movement were full of flaws, as if he was a person who had never trained in combat in his entire life. The person was so vulnerable that it made Wang Wei suspicious, so he raised his alert level again.

He observed the person closely before shaking his head. He also felt stupid for being so alarmed. Wang Wei sighed and muttered: "Sometimes, it's a sin to be too smart." The person was not a threat because he was basically no longer alive.

This Dao Lord was too smart and tried to absorb this area to raise his cultivation. Wang Wei could guess what the latter was thinking. By using this space to enter the Paragon Realm, he can use the Non-Causality Effect to hide himself from the parasites and even the two suns, thus achieving the great feat of becoming a Paragon in this era.

Unfortunately for him, he overestimated himself. Instead of swallowing the Non-Causality Heaven, he was absorbed and became a unique existence called a Karma Puppet.

'This guy is the perfect material to further elevate my Karma Unbound Physique,' Wang Wei thought with shining eyes. "But." He raised his hand to create a red thread targeting the young man. As expected, countless threads came to offset his attempt.

'He's now a part of the environment, so taking him would mean taking a piece of the Non-Causality Heaven,' Wang Wei analyzed. 'This will take a while.' He did not hesitate and started laying out formation around this man. He also used this time to understand this place better; it should help find the Ma Clan.

The entire process took a month, and he immediately activated the array. The backlash was immediate. Countless threads rushed towards Wang Wei, making his face severe. He could tell he would suffer if even one of these things hit him. Since proving the Dao, he had almost escaped the restraints of karma and could do whatever he wished. However, these threads could bypass his Karma Unbound Physique and force countless negative karma on him.

Wang Wei activated all the preventive measures he set up, but they were not as helpful as he wanted them to be. These threads embodied the saying that no one can escape karma. Wang Wei's measures can, at best, delay these threads' approach, not block them.

'At this rate, these defensive shields won't buy me enough time to stripe this karma puppet from this area,' Wang Wei thought. He did not want to give up such an opportunity, so he had to try something else. He summoned his River of Karma. During his Nine Extremity Foundation Cultivation, one of his incarnations once created a prototype of a River of Karma, which served as the foundation for Wang Wei's Karma Unbound Physique.

He planned to use the boost from this manifestation to delay these threads, and his plan worked, but it worked too well. As soon as the river appeared, these threads stopped and rushed toward it as if it were a goddess who accidentally ripped her clothes.

'What's going on,' Wang Wei thought as he moved the river to prevent these threads from touching it. He knew little about these things, so how stupid would he be to let them touch something that is the foundation of his body? He observed closely.

The threads were too excited to rush toward the river, which provided Wang Wei plenty of time to seal the puppet finally. However, Wang Wei had a sense of foreboding.

Bang!

The mountain trembled, and Wang Wei's face turned ugly. He saw an enormous red light rushing toward him, and his eyes could see that that light was composed of red karma threads.

'Damn it, why is this river so appetizing to these things?' Wang Wei thought. However, he did have time to think about this. Such a significant reaction was dangerous with Supreme Unity above his head. After all, even if the array is functional, it's impossible not to notice the anomaly in such a unique area. Wang Wei knew he could not stay here, but he was also unwilling to let go of such an opportunity.

'Damn it, since when has life been this difficult?' Wang Wei cursed. He was a child of luck, favored by fate. His life had many challenges, but things usually worked out well for him. However, in recent times, nothing he does has proceeded smoothly. He did not hesitate to cast his [Borrow Time] to forcefully accelerate the array. In just a few seconds, the seal was completed, and he put the puppet away and teleported out of this space. Unfortunately, these threads blocked the surrounding space.

'How annoying,' Wang Wei cursed before casting a Space Tearing Technique. However, it was not the regular kind, but a spell that combined Space and Karma Dao. With this approach, he tore through these karma thread restrictions and forced his way out of this place.

Wang Wei teleported away and returned to the Lawless Zone. He knew countless eyes would now be on that territory, so he did not even stay close. He summoned a crystal ball with the puppet peacefully sleeping inside.

He nodded with a smile before creating a subdimension and sealing that crystal inside the Lawless Zone. Wang Wei was in paranoid mode, so how can he absorb something he found by accident? In this current situation, the baseline mindset he acted on was that Supreme Unity was watching everything and could control everything — including his luck. So, he wouldn't even keep it in his space ring until he could verify that this puppet had nothing wrong with it.

'Now, I must start over,' Wang Wei complained. His destination was the Red Coffin Ground. According to what he knows, long ago, a peak Paragon of Karma Dao suffered a serious injury and escaped with its soul. Their body turned into this territory that contained a large quantity of karma-related resources. Such an area is less efficient than the previous Non-Causality Heaven, but it should be enough. However, as soon as Wang Wei arrived, he stopped himself.

'Why am I making such a stupid decision?' Wang Wei thought. 'If Supreme Unity knew I went to an area related to karma and something unexpected occurred, isn't it easy for him to deduce that I would change to another place? Aren't I just sending myself to the lion's mouth?'

Non-existent beads of sweat fell from his back, and he teleported away. He decided to rely on himself, so he found an isolated area to build a dimension. He summoned a Karma Treasure his wife lent him — yes, lent, not given.

'I still remember some of the structure of the Non-Causality Heaven. Maybe I can replicate it,' Wang Wei thought. He did not hesitate and immediately started. He used the Karma Paragon Artifact as a core and built it one step at a time. Wang Wei discovered this practice was slowly increasing his understanding of Karma Dao, so he lost himself in it.

After an unknown amount of time, Wang Wei sensed a feeling of dread and immediately stopped. 'What happened?' He sensed the feeling and started cursing. His understanding of Karma through this manner was enough for his cultivation to increase by 1%, but such fluctuation was enough to touch the rules of the Heaven Lock. In other words, thunder would have struck him if he did not stop in time.

However, Wang Wei did not care about this and started laughing. He was genuinely happy because he had made two significant discoveries. First, he understood why these threads were so energetic about his River of Karma. The answer was simple — the Non-Causality Heaven was the failed experiment of someone else who also wanted to build their own River of Karma.

The karma threads of that place contained the other person's obsession, and when they saw Wang Wei, they felt this was an opportunity to fulfill their goal.

'Obsession is truly a wonderful power,' Wang Wei thought. However, he shook his head as he focused on his second discovery: he discovered a flaw in the Heaven Lock's restrictions.

'I can cultivate by observing and gathering knowledge,' Wang Wei analyzed. 'However, before the knowledge feeds back to my understanding of the Grand Dao Source, I must seal them so as not to trigger that hidden mechanism.'

This method is not perfect and has two major flaws. The first one is that it requires extreme talent. Only someone like Wang Wei, with enough knowledge and the proper sealing method is needed. Additionally, this method requires unique places that can facilitate learning, such as the Non-Causality Heaven. Wang Wei can use that place, and he has a better place in the form of the Origin Seal Continent.

The second biggest shortcoming is it cannot currently increase Wang Wei's cultivation. He must wait until the lock is dealt with and unseal his memories. The good news is if the build-up is enough, the feedback from the memories could increase his cultivation by a few percent instantly.

Wang Wei exhaled. 'I finally see some hope in destroying this cage.' Nothing is perfect. Now that he has discovered one flaw of this lock, he can find others.

Chapter 1349 Communicating Across Eras

Wang Wei exhaled to calm down. Although his future was brighter than before, his current situation was still in a state of darkness before the light. He observed all the red threads around him and waved his hand. Under his control, the threads mold into this bright gem.

Wang Wei controlled his Proving Dao Artifact to turn into a headband and placed the gem at the center. Wang Wei desperately wanted to absorb this gem and further evolve his [River of Karma], but he was still in paranoid mode, meaning he could never be too careful. Even the method of using knowledge to cultivate secretly will require his caution; he already planned to seal these memories separately and not keep them in his Sea of Consciousness.

He summoned the karma river prototype before closing his eyes. 'Infinite Lord of Illusion,' he repeated in his mind until he sensed his spirit rushing out of his body to an unknown location. He found himself approaching this enormous brown door, but unfortunately, something blocked him right as he was about to enter.

'This must be the seal,' Wang Wei thought with a frown. 'This will make things more challenging.' Luckily, he was prepared. He activated the Karma Gem to boost his ability. With a thought, Wang

Wei's spirit started to manifest all the karma threads connected to that door. The process was more than challenging due to the interference of the seal and the sheer number.

Wang Wei spent five years manifesting all these threads, and once he finished, he did not dare to count them. The Void Illusion Realm existed before the Endless Tribulation Era, so how many cultivators have used its service? All these people represent a karma thread. If Wang Wei dare count the number, his soul might be severely injured in the process.

As impressive as that number is, it also served as a problem: how to forage through all these threads and find the information he wanted. If he had some of the Ma Clan's bloodline, he could use it as a guide, but he would not need to use karma if he had their blood. A simple blood tracing spell would have done the job.

'Even if I use Ying-Yang Calculation to comb through this mess, it would take me a few billion years to find something if not yuan epochs. So, I need another way, for example, starting from the source.'

Wang Wei mobilized his Karma and Time Dao for the next operation. He began to classify the threads by age. He divided them by Era, with the current era threads above. His eyes then focused on the era before the Endless Tribulation.

'Interesting. Why are there so few?' Wang Wei thought. Less than 10 million threads were in the eras before the [Endless Tribulation Era]. 'Could it be that Heavenly Dao restarted civilization from a fundamental level? Besides a few people worth remembering from the previous eras, it erased everything else, including their karma?'

It was impossible for less than 10,000 million people to use the Void Illusion Realm before that era unless something Wang Wei did not know had happened. As such, his theory was the best he could think of now. 'Well, it doesn't matter since that is good news for me.

It was easy for him to organize these threads until he found the first one, probably the Ma Clan's Ancestor or the person who built the Void Illusion Realm. "Excellent," Wang Wei muttered and began to manipulate that thread to find the Ma Clan's descendants.

However, an unexpected accident occurred. As soon as he touched that thread, he sensed a gaze connected to it. Wang Wei followed and saw a beautiful woman in blue clothes. Her eyes were bright beyond words and contained an unparalleled kind of spirituality. "What an ethereal beauty," Wang Wei praised. The woman's body was illusionary and real, thus creating this ethereal and otherworldly charm.

"You must be the Ma Clan Ancestor."

"Fellow Daoist, what are you trying to use our clan's karmic line for?" asked the woman. Her voice was soft but also ethereal.

"What a great understanding of the River of Time," Wang Wei commented. He could tell this woman was communicating with him across space-time from the past. For all Wang Wei knows, she might be dead, but that did not stop them from communicating across eras.

"Fellow Daoist, please answer the question."

"I'm trying to gain control over the Void Illusion Realm," Wang Wei replied truthfully. The woman squinted, and a terrifying killing intent reached Wang Wei. However, he did not react. On the contrary, a small smile was in the corner of his mouth. He followed the intent of the killer and sensed how she did it. It took him a moment, but he found the trick and copied it. He used his [Chrono Spirit] to send his will in her timeline, forming a confrontation across space-time.

"Hmm?" The woman muttered as she sensed Wang Wei's will arriving on her. 'What a terrifying talent,' she thought. She waved her hand to disperse his will.

'What a terrifying power,' Wang Wei thought. 'She might be more powerful than my wife.' He frowned. 'Is she a pseudo-transcendent?' Pseudo-Transcendent is not a real thing but something Wang Wei invented. It's a term to describe peak or Primal Paragons who have already embarked on their Transcendent Path. He's not talking about people who just have an idea but those who have already created and executed their method.

The woman did not mind Wang Wei's daring act. Her eyes drifted as if she was searching for something. She sighed, and Wang Wei could feel her emotions, and he also suddenly felt sad. 'She can even influence my emotions from her era? Damn it, how powerful is this woman?' He remained calm, but his mind was working overtime.

"I can't believe the clan has fallen to this step," the woman uttered before focusing on Wang Wei. "Fellow Daoist, can I make a deal with you?"

"How about we start with an introduction first?"

"The name is Ma Liquiu, but people call me the True Illusion Paragon."

"My name is Di Tian, and my title is Nine Samsara," Wang Wei replied. "You spoke of a deal?"

"That's right," Ma Liquiu said while giving him a strange look. However, she did not say anything about his name. "I want you to protect the Ma Clan and cultivate at least one Paragon. In return, I'll grant you the highest control over the Void Illusion Realm."

"Are you sure those are your terms? You won't ask me to return it to your clan?"

"Fellow Daoist, you can see such power is a burden, even a threat, to them instead of wealth and glory."

"Then, how do you know I'm not the same?"

"Intuition."

"Is that so?" Wang Wei replied with squinted eyes. "This deal is tempting, but I can't agree."

Ma Liquiu frowned. "If Fellow Daoist Wang wants something, we can discuss it."

"This is not about bargaining the price. The current Eternal Ascension World is facing a catastrophe. I can barely protect myself, let alone others."

"Oh? Can I hear more about it?" She can only roughly check the Ma Clan's situation through their Qi Luck Dragon, but nothing more. Wang Wei did not hesitate and gave her a breath summary of the world's current state.

"So, there is indeed a path ahead," Ma Liquiu muttered, her eyes shining brighter than before. She exhaled softly to calm down. "The deal can continue. You only need to do things to the best of your ability."

Wang Wei frowned before pretending to hesitate.

"I'll add something else," Ma Liquiu said with a hidden sigh. My purpose in creating that realm was to facilitate communication with like-minded individuals and use them to gather soul power secretly. My era is a long time from yours, and I imagine that there should be an abundance still preserved."

'An abundance? Those words are the understatement of the year,' Wang Wei thought. Such Soul Power reserves are enough to cultivate his soul to the highest level, use it as a means to boost his understanding to reach 100% Grand Dao Source, and probably have enough to allow more than 10,000 Paragons to cultivate their soul to the highest level.

To say Wang Wei was excited for such resources is an understatement. However, he did not let greed overwhelm his judgment. Instead, he thought about it calmly and rationally.

"I agree, but under three conditions."

"That's fine, but please don't go too far."

"Don't worry, I'm not asking for too much," Wang Wei said, and she nodded her head for him to continue. "Firstly, I want you to include secretly gathering soul energy from mortals. It doesn't have to be much, but a small amount from them, preferably when they sleep. You can even use dreams as a medium."

"Hmm, This is a great way to increase the reserves," Ma Liquiu commented. She understood Wang Wei's need to increase his profit. Moreover, this idea can also provide her with some benefits. "This is not a problem."

"For my second request, I..."

Chapter 1350: First Large Scale Confrontation

"...I want to know whether you can hide the soul pool from these people," Wang Wei said while pointing above his head.

"That is not an issue, especially after telling me of their existence," Ma Liquiu replied casually.

"Oh? So confident?" However, her response was only a smile.

"I want to remind you that I'm doing this purely out of interest, and I won't move a muscle without seeing any benefit," Wang Wei said.

"So direct, huh?" Ma Liquiu uttered. "I understand, and you don't have to worry."

"If you say so," Wang Wei nodded. "My last condition is a question; I want an honest answer."

"I'm all ears."

"Are you alive?" Wang Wei asked. His question immediately stumped her; it was apparent since Wang Wei could see the emotions from her facial expression.

"That's an interesting question," Ma Liquiu uttered. "To answer you in the most simple way, I am not, but things are more complicated than that."

"More complicated than entering Limbo?"

"Yes, more complicated than that."

"I see," Wang Wei nodded. "I accept the deal. Do you have any requirements for the Paragon?"

"Nothing. I just don't want the clan to become extinct. As long as they preserve our lineages, that will be enough for me."

"I understand," Wang Wei said. "How do we proceed?"

"You only need to find our clan's Luck Condensing Artifact and enter the Void Illusion Realm."

Wang Wei squinted his eyes after hearing this: "Anything else?"

"That's it," Ma Liquid nodded. "It was a pleasure to meet you, Fellow Daoist." She smiled, fully displaying her otherworldly charm. Wang Wei calmly watched as the figure disappeared. "No contract? She must have her own guarantee," Wang Wei muttered, feeling another headache coming. "However, I should expect this from a False Transcendent."

Pseudo Transcendent is not the only other classification that Wang Wei created. There is still False Transcendent above them, and these are people who failed in their attempt to enter the path of transcendence but survived either by luck or their ingenuity. These people's [Existence] should contain some qualities of [Half-Step Transcendents], making them way more powerful than Primal Paragons.

Wang Wei and Wu Hong theorized that there were not many pseudo and false transcendents in the world; their numbers are probably even less than actual [Half-Step Transcendent] due to the result of the Ultimate Taboo. However, these people will be abundant once the Transcendent Era starts and envelops the whole Chaos Universe.

'So, what should my next move be? Should I help her or treat her as a pawn?' Wang Wei thought. He had many suspicions about this woman, and their conversation slowly revealed the truth. Firstly, he asked her to add mortals to the list of people from whom to gather soul power. Such an act might make it seem he was greedy and only wanted more profit, but he was also testing the water.

Ma Liquiu was communicating with him from the past, and what Wang Wei asked was basically to change history. Such an act should create enough backlash to kill a Primal Paragon on Wu Hong's level. Yet, she agreed casually as if this was nothing to her. So, as soon as he agreed, Wang Wei had suspicions about her strength.

Then, he asked her about her status, and her answer that she was dead but complicated revealed to him information, the primary focus on her status as a false transcendent. Finally, there is her motive.

'She probably wants to revive, and whoever suckers from the Ma Clan I chose to become the Paragon will be her vessel or the link to her success,' Wang Wei analyzed. A Great Emperor can use their bloodline to revive themselves, let alone someone on Ma Liquiu's level. She might not even use bloodline, but the clan concept itself to revive herself.

'I can probably temper with the vessel, but is that necessary?' Wang Wei analyzed. 'I'm positive that her way of transcendence has something to do with the Void Illusion Realm. Her revival might mean I lose the control I've already gained, but is that enough to make enemies with someone with such potential?' Wang Wei slowly and meticulously calculated the pros and cons.

'I could bring the Ma Clan into the Dao Opening Sect, and once she revives, we will have another Transcendent Seed. However, it would be foolish to believe such a powerhouse can be controlled because of family lineage.'

There are so many generations between Ma Liquiu and the current Ma Clan, let alone by the time she's revived. Wang Wei also has to consider timing. If Ma Liquiu is revived before the Dao Opening Sect, then she could use her strength to take over instead.

'So, I must control when to cultivate that Ma Clan Paragon,' Wang Wei analyzed. 'It would be best to wait until the sect has one or two transcendence. That way, we can control or lure her into our side with resources and guidance. Moreover, she might also be an excellent teacher for Dong Lifen's Path of Transcendence.'

The Void Illusion Realm was similar to the Dream World. If Ma Liquiu can succeed, Dong Lifen might derive inspiration from her method, thus cultivating another transcendent for the sect.

'Okay, it's decided,' Wang Wei thought. Now that he knew how to treat this cooperation, he felt more relieved. The plan was perfect; even if it did not work, he could form an alliance with Ma Liquiu. It's always good to have powerful friends. Wang Wei teleported away; he had found the Ma Clan.

He entered a secret realm full of people. These people looked normal to the naked eye, but Wang Wei saw more than that. He saw a group of prideful people who were beaten by society. The Ma Clan inherited their ancestor's pride in her accomplishments, but they did not have the ability to maintain. Despite having the Spirit of Epochs for countless years, their clan slowly declined to the point where only three regular Great Emperors were in charge.

'I want to say how the mighty have fallen, but a part of me knows that this may be the fate of the Wang Clan one day,' Wang Wei thought, sighing deeply. He shook his head to remove these distracting thoughts. He swiftly scanned everyone in the clan.

"As expected, all their talents are terrible," Wang Wei muttered. It was hard to imagine a clan that gave birth to someone like Ma Liquiu had fallen to this state. 'Maybe it's not a coincidence. Maybe it's the luck backlash for her failure.' Wang Wei was inclined to believe this. Someone of Ma Liquiu's level does not need to have direct descendants. With her achievements, the bloodline of the Ma Clan would naturally improve, so even after so long, there should be some talented individuals.

'I still have plenty of time. I can slowly excavate the talent from their bloodline. That approach should also make it easier for her to return,' Wang Wei thought. He waved his hand, and this secret realm shrunk into a ball before putting it away. Meanwhile, his left hand held a golden pyramid that seemed to look different every time he looked at it.

'I can't sense anything,' Wang Wei thought. This thing looked like a normal artifact to his eyes, and it's the same no matter what he tries. 'Well, let's take it as another reminder: never underestimate anyone with some achievements in the transcendent path. Alright, let's get

this show on the move.'

Wang Wei took a step and appeared before the gate he saw in his previous Karma Divination. Just as he saw, there were a few dozen robust seals, showing that whoever dealt with this

place did not do it lightly.

'The good news is the thing I was worried about did not happen,' Wang Wei thought with squinted eyes. He feared that Maitreya or Supreme Unity participated in sealing the Void Illusion Realm. His actions would have been futile if that had been the case. Luckily, this should have been Time Eater and the others' work.

'Now is the bad news,' Wang Wei thought as he turned around. "I can smell the stench of decay, cowardness, and arrogance even if you hide in the void.

"You are even more arrogant than the information said." A woman dressed in Yin-Yang robes appeared, followed by three others. Of course, Wang Wei recognized his greatest "enemies." "You are - what was it again? Something Cauldron," Wang Wei asked. "Forget my rudeness, but my memories are important, and I don't have room for unimportant people." Seven Cauldron chuckled, her demeanor calm and unbothered. Unfortunately, the terrifying killing intent released from her body proved otherwise.

"I will enjoy your death," Seven Cauldron declared. "I will make a cup to drink wine out of your skull. That is a promise, and I always keep my word."

"What a vulgar woman," Wang Wei commented. "Wait, are you even a woman?" He was not saying these words for nothing; it was because he sensed some abnormality with her.

"Shut up."

"It seems I hit a sore spot."